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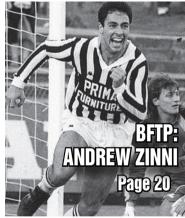
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# MAN UTD TO PLAY IN SYDNEY NEXT JULY

MARCOS FLORES SOUVENIR POS

**HAL ROUND 10** REWIND Page 5



**Page 21** 

Football Federation Australia (FFA) in conjunction with the NSW Government and Destination NSW has announced that English Premier League (EPL) giants Manchester United will play the A-League All Stars at ANZ Stadium in Sydney next July.

The international exhibition match on Saturday 20 July will be exclusive to Sydney in the only appearance by Manchester United in Australia during the club's 2013

pre-season tour. Manchester United is set to bring out its full squad in preparation for the 2013-14 EPL season.

United's current squad includes England striker Wayne Rooney, Dutch ace Robin van Persie and the evergreen Ryan Giggs

It will be United's first visit to Australia since the two-match tour in 1999.

The A-League All Stars will represent the best of the Hyundai A-League with the team to be preselected by fans.

FFA CEO David Gallop has hailed the confirmation of the high-profile match as

another great opportunity to showcase Australian football.

"Having Manchester United as the opponent for our first ever A-League All Star game will put the Hyundai A-League on

the world stage," said Gallop.
"I'm absolutely delighted that Australian fans will get to see the Red Devils in action against the best A-League players. It's a massive opportunity for our players and

one the fans won't want to miss. "On behalf of the football community, I thank Manchester United, the NSW Government, its agency Destination NSW, and ANZ Stadium for making this tour possible."

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell said he's pleased to welcome Manchester United to Sydney.

"I'm delighted that the NSW Government's agency, Destination NSW, in partnership with ANZ Stadium, has won an Australian and New Zealand exclusive to host Manchester United in NSW, the home of world class sport."

"Manchester United will p

be-missed match against an A-League All Stars team at ANZ Stadium on Saturday 20 July 2013."

"I'm looking forward to welcoming Manchester United back to Sydney - their first visit to NSW since 1999. Manchester United is the most successful English football club in history, having won 19 Premier League titles, 11 FA Cups and three European Cups, and the match against our A-League team promises to be an exhila-

rating contest." "I invite Manchester United fans and football fans across the world to come to Sydney to enjoy the best in world football, in Australia's premier sports and major events city.'

Destination NSW CEO, Sandra Chipchase, said: "Destination NSW is proud to have secured another major events coup for NSW. The Manchester United game will generate more than 20,000 overnight international and interstate visitors to Sydney, contributing an estimated \$16 million to the NSW economy."

ANZ Stadium Managing Director Darv

Kerry, said: "It's fantastic to have one of the greatest football teams in the world playing at ANZ Stadium. The Manchester United match promises to be the international jewel in the crown for ANZ Stadium's 2013 event schedule.'

Manchester United Chief Executive, David Gill said, "The game and training camp that will take place in Sydney will be an important part of the team's preparation for the 2013/14 season."

"We are delighted to accept the invitation from the New South Wales Government and Football Federation Australia to visit one of the world's truly great cities.

"There are three main reasons we go on pre-season tour. First and foremost is the team's preparation for the season ahead. But the tour also allows us to engage with our global fan base and network of commercial partners.

"It has been a while since we last visited Sydney and we are looking forward to renewing our relationship with our loyal and enthusiastic Australian fans.'



# **Futsal Changes good for the game say Qantas Futsalroos**

By Russ Gibbs

The FFA Futsal National Championships returns to Canberra in 2013 with a new streamlined format with each State only entering one team per age bracket. Gone are the days of Thunder and Lightning and Cobras and Colts with New South Wales and the ACT reduced to selecting one squad of the best available players. This should increase the level of competition and encourage a truly national feel with each State playing each other in what should be a highly entertaining week of Futsal.

Coming on the back of the 2012 FIFA Futsal World Cup, the FFA National Championships will once again expose the indoor game to the masses with the popularity of the sport soaring and the changes will certainly benefit the game, so says current Qantas Futsalroos captain and former NSW Thunder player Greg Giovenali. "I think every state should be forced to send one team so that the competition is a genuine state versus state," Giovenali said. "One team per state and every team must enter. The FFA should encourage every state to enter the competition.' Giovenali himself has realised the pinnacle of the competition playing a pivotal role in the Thunder's victory over the home-town ACT Cobras in the 2012 edition of the National Championships.

"I've only played in one championship but we won it in extra-time last year against the ACT and I managed to score two goals so it's a good personal memory for me," he recalled. "With the younger boys it does give you a sense of being on tour when you are away for a whole week at the championships. You're with the boys all day and you can get bored while you are waiting for matches. It's important to realise that it's not just all about the



NSW's Thunder and Lightning with last year's trophy.

glamour of the game time, there's a lot of down time where you have to play cards or Playstation and try to kill time between games. For the older boys it's just important to get high speed regular games at stop-clock conditions as we don't get that very often. The more we get the better. At the same time we need the quality of teams to be better and that means everyone entering."

NSW and Australian international goalkeeper Gavin O'Brien is hoping that, if selected, his team can go all the way and claim a hat-trick of titles having triumphed in the last two tournaments held at the Australian Institute of Sport.

"It's going to magic if we can go three in a row. It'd be a great achievement for the boys," O'Brien commented. "For me personally the last couple of years have been really enjoyable. We've had some great games and now there is a new format it should hopefully improve the quality of the games and make it more of a showpiece. It'll be one game a day rather than two or three which doesn't allow you to play as well as you may have without the crowded fixture list. I'm like any futsal player in Australia, I want to be there and competing in

this event. We have to sacrifice a lot to play in the competition, more time away from home, more time off of your day job and the rest of it, but I certainly plan on being a part of it and coming into the tournament off the back of the FIFA Futsal World Cup should mean we are all in a positive mood and that NSW can finish first again!"

O'Brien's memories of his part in the competition are still vivid, particularly of the day they snuck past Victoria in 2010 to take out the championship on penalties after an epic Grand Final had ended all square at 2-2, with O'Brien emerging as the hero in the shoot-out.

"I conceded a goal in right at the end of the match when they took a timeout and prepared a set move,' O'Brien remembered, "You're told to keep the ball in the centre of your body and I did that but it wasn't good enough and it went straight between my legs. Fully five or ten seconds later I thought to myself that this is going to extra time and we are going to win this on penalties and sometimes sport is so kind to you and I was fortunate to save a couple of penalties. The first save was from Fernando [De Moraes] and then one hit the post and the last one I tipped onto



Rob Varela (Assistant Coach), Fernando De Moraes, Greg Giovenali (Captain), Arthur Kazas (Strength and Conditioning) at the Japan v Libya match.

the post to win it. To be captain and part of that side was awesome. It was an amazing feeling and to take that into the Final twelve months later against the ACT was brilliant. The game was still a very close affair and to win two in a row was exhausting but a fantastic feeling so hopefully we can complete a hat-trick in 2013." Qantas Futsalroos team mate Fernando De Moraes remembers that spot-kick saga all too well. "Penalties are penalties," the Brazilian born naturalised Australian reminisced. "It's hard to understand sometimes when you miss and you are out of the competition. Gavin [O'Brien] is a great goalkeeper and a very experienced player who's been to a couple of World Cups. It happens in the game though. I had a great tournament and it would have been great had we ended up winning the tournament, but sometimes it doesn't go your way, but it was a good experience." As for whether the silky skills of Fernando would be on show at the FFA Futsal National Championships well that would depend on how the playmaker was feeling post FIFA Futsal World Cup.

"I want to have a rest after the World Cup as I have been playing indoor and outdoor for a while now, so I need a little break, but I'll see," Fernando commented. "If I feel good when I get back to Melbourne I would really like to play. We changed the mentality in Victoria. Back in the day it was just another trip, another holiday, a week off work. But nowadays we want to win, we want to be on the top and we work hard for it. We have a lot of good young players coming through and if they think like that then we have a good chance."

Whilst Victoria and NSW will no doubt be among the favourites for the championship there's still the not insignificant threat of the ACT to consider. O'Brien is adamant that the home state poses a real threat to NSW hopes of a treble but is sure that the decision to reduce the entrants to one per state should create a memorable competition.

"For a long time that I have been involved, there has always been a rivalry between NSW and the ACT," the Qantas Futsalroos threetime FIFA World Cup representative said. "For a long time ACT dominated but over the last few

years it has evened out and NSW have got their roll on and have won a couple. Every year has been different and this new format should make the games a lot closer and a lot more unpredictable. It's going to be hard to cram twice as many players into one side but l think that possibly it may create a bit more value in the shirt. It's certainly going to be a change as they Thunder and Lightning aspect has been around for quite some time, as have the Cobras and Colts in the ACT, so it's going to be a bit of a learning curve and it might take a couple of years to get the blend right as it has been so long since it has been only one team per state. It might inspire a few blokes to commit further to the NSW cause and if you do well, and NSW are traditionally a strong outfit, that you will get exposure to the national selectors and a chance to play for the Futsalroos.' And, if the competition does produce further Qantas Futsalroos representatives, then the changes will certainly have been for the better. Either way the next week of competition will be fast and furi-

ous and full of skills as each State

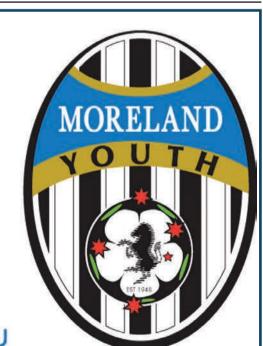
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# **Socceroos Through By The Skin of Its Teeth**

By Adrian Deans

Australia qualified for the East Asian Cup tournament last week, but qualification (while important for the future development of the squad and for the FFA's coffers) almost happened in the background as argument raged over Holger's selections and strategy.

In the wake of our performance several weeks ago in beating South Korea, using some up and coming stars in the process, a fresh wave of optimism had washed though Socceroos supporters who had been unhappy with Holger's over-reliance on the Over 30s.

It seemed as though the enforced selection of a mainly A-League squad would finally oblige him to give the kids a chance and we were all excited to see names like Rogic, Mooy, Babalj, Behich and Marrone in the line-up – especially as the manager had declared he would be rotating selection to deal with the demands of four games in eight days.

But to our consternation, he picked his oldest and most experienced team against Hong Kong – and then set them up defensively and just scraped a win through Brett Emerton's last gasp effort.

Cue the "Holger Out!" hysteria, which got even louder two days later when he selected the same side to play North Korea, our main rivals in the group, who were already plus 10 on goal difference.



Phew! Large haul results in the final two games ensured the Socceroos of East Asia Cup qualification.

It's fair to say the team did not cover themselves with glory that night and many were noticeably tiring. In both games, to that point, the Socceroos had looked disorganised and toothless until Rogic entered the fray. With a 1 – 1 draw against North Korea, the competition was bound to be decided on goal difference and we had a hell of a lot of ground to make up. Finally the kids got their chance against Guam and the resultant 9 – 0 thumping was memorable for Archie's six minute hat trick and the debut of Aaron Mooy. Yes, it was only Guam, but he played awfully well in the number six role.

Finally, we played Chinese Taipei, knowing that we needed to win by five. Holger reverted mainly to his veterans for the game (but included Mooy) and we had the five goals wrapped up by the 34th minute and cruised to qualification with another three - missing numerous chances along the way. In the end, you can hardly criticise the coach. His tactics paid off - just - but what exactly did he learn about his squad (besides the fact that an A-League selection can at least thrash Guam)? To some extent, this was a missed opportunity to have a closer look at the players who might be representing us

in Brazil (presuming we make it – which is not at all certain) by playing them in the game that mattered.

I really hope that Holger will have the confidence going forward to include the likes of Rogic, Mooy, Behich and Marrone in the full Socceroos squad, because these boys are the future – which is starting right now.

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets, published by Vulgar Press and available in all good book shops. (ebook available also).

### **East Asian Cup Qualifiers**

PWDL F A GDPts

1. Australia 4 3 1 0 19 1 +18 10

2. Korea DPR4 3 1 0 16 2 +14 10

3. Hong Kong 4 2 0 2 4 6 -2 6

4. Ch Taipei 4 0 1 3 2 17 -15 1

5. Guam 4 0 1 3 2 17 -15 1

Guam 1 – 2 Hong Kong

Nth Korea 5 – 0 Guam
Hong Kong 0 – 1 Australia
Chinese Taipei 1 – 1 Guam
North Korea 1 – 1 Australia
Guam 0 – 9 Australia
Hong Kong 2 – 0 Chinese Taipei
Hong Kong 0 – 4 North Korea
Australia 8 – 0 Chinese Taipei

Taipei 1 - 6 Nth Korea

### Mariners to honour

### Alex Wilkinson

CENTRAL Coast Mariners great Alex Wilkinson will be back at Bluetongue Stadium this Friday evening when Graham Arnold's side challenge John Aloisi's Melbourne Heart outfit in Hyundai A-League round 11. Wilkinson departed the Mariners in July to take up a deal with K-League giant Jeonbuk Hyundai, however with the 2012 domestic season in

giant Jeonbuk Hyundai, however with the 2012 domestic season in Korea Republic over, the long-serving former Central Coast skipper is taking the opportunity to catch-up with family and friends in Australia. Wilkinson will watch the match against the red and white half of Melbourne from the stands, and at half time will be presented with a token of the Club's appreciation for his years of service in the yellow and navy.

at Bluetongue Stadium last season that Alex Wilkinson made his 150th Hyundai A-League appearance for the Club.
In total, Wilkinson made 206 competitive appearances for the Central Coast Mariners, winning two Hyundai A-League premierships, appearing in

Indeed, it was in Central Coast's

round 8, 3-1 win over Melbourne Heart

petitive appearances for the Central Coast Mariners, winning two Hyundai A-League premierships, appearing in three Hyundai A-League deciders, and leading the Club in its first two forays into Asia's top club competition – the AFC Champions League.



# Dugandzic ruled out for rest of season

Melbourne Heart FC winger Mate Dugandzic has been ruled out for the rest of the 2012-13 Hyundai A-League season after surgery to his broken right foot.

Dugandzic was sidelined after colliding with Adelaide United goalkeeper Eugene Galekovic in the round seven clash at Hindmarsh Stadium on November 17. Dugandzic's initial prognosis on his fractured metatarsal was that he would miss 12 weeks; however, additional scans and surgery on Thursday revealed the extent of damage to both bone and ligament and he is likely to be out for up to six months.

"It's never great to lose such an important player so early in the season," said Head Coach John Aloisi.

"Mate was a critical player for us least season and now the challenge is for another emerging player, like Golgol [Mebrahtu] or Ben [Garuccio], to step-up when they get an opportunity and prove that they can be an elite player, which Mate did last season." John Aloisi also ruled out the club recruiting an Injury Replace-



Dugandzic.

"We have enough attacking depth in the squad to cover the loss,"

down if we need to.'

Aloisi said.
"We saw last week that players from our Youth League team were able to step up and help us get a result, so that's the path we will go

# Caceres extends Coast stay

PRECOCIOUS Central Coast Mariners midfielder Anthony Caceres has put pen to paper on a new two-season contract with the Club, ensuring he will remain in the yellow and navy until the end of the 2014/15 Hyundai A-League season.

One of the Mariners' brightest young stars, 20-year-old Caceres progressed through Central Coast's National Youth League system before signing his first professional deal with the Club ahead of the Group Stage of the 2012 AFC Champions League.

After impressing in pre-season this year, Caceres suffered a freak elbow injury which hampered his prospects of featuring in the early part of the current A-League campaign.

But after a string of standout displays in the National Youth League competition and consistent efforts in training, the creative, composed midfield conductor has been rewarded with an extended deal with the Hyundai A-League table-toppers.

"I feel very privileged to be at a Club where they give young players an opportunity," Caceres said. "I'm surrounded by good people and I couldn't be happier." Caceres added that despite his pre-season injury holding his

progress back slightly, he feels he



is close to his best and can make the transition from NYL star to Hyundai A-League regular.

"We've got a bunch of great players both technically and physically, and they're just good blokes all round," he said.

"I've taken a lot away from the preseason and the first few rounds. I've been working on my fitness a fair bit and hitting the gym, trying to put on some size. In time I think I can step up to A-League level." Central Coast Mariners boss, Graham Arnold, is confident that Caceres will be gracing the Hyundai A-League stage soon. Indeed, the Mariners boss is excited by the potential of the former Marconi Stallions man, and believes he can develop into a key player for the Club.

"He's a player of the future of the

Club and he's got a big part to play in what we will be about in the future," Arnold said. "He's a wonderful kid and it's

great that we were able to sign him so quickly, especially with other Clubs hovering around." "They (rival Clubs) watch the

Youth League games and he's the best player in the Youth League every week."

"I think you will see him in our first team by the end of the season."

"Hopefully we'll be announcing some more signings in the next couple of weeks as well," he said. Moreover, Central Coast Mariners Chairman, Mr Peter Turnbull, welcomed the news that Caceres will remain a Mariner until 2015. "Anthony Caceres had a promising start to the season hampered

by injury, but is now back in full training and is showing his class daily," Turnbull said. "He deserves his longer contract, and we expect him to develop in the same way the Club has

and we expect him to develop in the same way the Club has developed previous youngsters such as Danny Vukovic, Mustafa Amini, Mathew Ryan, Tom Rogic, Trent Sainsbury, Bernie Ibini, and Mitchell Duke."

# Jeronimo to remain a Red till 2015

Dynamic Adelaide United FC forward Jeronimo Neumann has agreed to terms with the club for a further two seasons. One of the two new Argentineans along with Marcelo Carrusca, signed by the Reds this season, Neumann has found a new lease of life here in Adelaide after seven years playing professionally in his homeland, split up by a year in England at Barnsley.

Reds Football Director, Michael Petrillo said the Club was very happy to have been able to extend the contract with Jeronimo beyond this current season. "It's terrific to see players of the quality of Jeronimo come into the A-League in the first instance and even better when they stick around for longer terms so to have "Jero" here for the next two seasons speaks volumes for the Club and what we are trying to build here. Negotiations went very smoothly and we have only been awaiting his release from his previous club Sol de America in Paraguay which arrived last night".

Neumann will remain a Red until 30 April 2015 and is the second major re-signing for the Club after securing Cassio for a further two seasons last month



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TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts
1 Central Coast Mariners	10	7	2	1	19	8	11	23
2 Adelaide United	10	7	1	2	17	9	8	22
3 Melbourne Victory	10	5	1	4	17	20	-3	16
4 West Sydney Wanderers	10	4	1	5	6	8	-2	13
5 Newcastle Jets	10	4	1	5	14	19	-5	13
6 Wellington Phoenix	10	3	3	4	13	12	1	12
7 Melbourne Heart	10	3	3	4	12	12	0	12
8 Perth Glory	10	3	2	5	9	10	-1	11
9 Brisbane Roar	10	3	1	6	13	13	0	10
10 Sydney FC	10	3	1	6	14	23	-9	10

**ROUND 11** Fri Dec 14 Fri Dec 14

Sat Dec 15 Sat Dec 15 Sun Dec 16

Wanderers ``

Patrick Gerhardt

Heart

Fabio Ferreira

Adelaide

Daniel McBreen

Mariners

**Vedran Janjetovic** 

Sydney FC

Michael Beauchamp Pascal Bosschaart

Marcelo Carrusca

Adelaide

**Evan Kostopoulos** 

Adelaide

**FIXTURE** 

Fri Dec 21

West Sydney Wanderers v Adelaide United Brisbane Roar v Perth Glory **Wellington Phoenix v Central Coast Mariners Newcastle Jets v Sydney FC** Melbourne Heart v Melbourne Victory

**Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Heart** 

Perth Glory v Newcastle Jets Melbourne Victory v Brisbane Roar

Sydney FC

Josh Rose

Mariners

Marcos Rojas

Josip Tadic

Heart

Victory

Sydney FCv West Sydney Wanderers Adelaide United v Wellington Phoenix

VENUE **Bluetongue Stadium** nib Stadium

**AAMI Park** 

Allianz Stadium **Hindmarsh Stadium** 

Parramatta Stadium **Hunter Stadium AAMI Park** 

7:00pm 9:00pm 3:00pm

**AEDT** 

7:30pm

9:45pm

5:30pm

7:45pm 5:00pm

LOCAL

7:30pm

6:45pm

5:30pm

7:45pm

4:30pm

# **ROUND 10 RESULTS**

Western Sydney Wanderers 1 (Ono 87)

**Brisbane Roar 0** 

Crowd: 6755 Venue: Parramatta Stadium

**Wellington Phoenix 1** (Brockie pen 90+2)

Sydney FC 2 (Ryall 45+1, Grant 69)

Crowd: 7,375 Venue: Westpac Stadium

Melbourne Heart 1 (Mebrahtu 89') Perth Glory 0

9 - Daniel McBREEN (Mariners)

7 -Jeremy BROCKIE (Phoenix)

6 - Marco ROJAS (Victory)

5 - Emile HESKEY (Jets) Alessandro DEL PIERO (SFC)

Dario VIDOSIC (Adelaide U) **Besart BERISHA (Roar)** 

4- Jeronimo NEUMANN

(AUFC)

Ryan GRIFFITHS (Jets) **Andrew NABBOUT (Victory)** 

**Compiled by Andrew Bishara** 

Crowd: 4500 Venue: AAMI Park

Newcastle Jets 0 **Central Coast Mariners 2** 

(McBreen, 48', 66') Crowd: 13,112 Venue: Hunter Stadium

**Adelaide United 4** 

(Kostopoulos 2, Ferreira 21, 32, Carrusca 25)

**Melbourne Victory 2** 

(Nabbout 5, Rojas 47) Crowd: 14,115 venue: Hindmarsh Stadium



Mariner Daniel McBreen is proving to be a real poacher in the penalty area this season.

# A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK ROUND

### **GK: Vedran Janjetovic (Sydney FC)**

Put in a consistent performance against Wellington and is giving his position in the team no harm with a confident display.

### **CB: Pascal Bosschaart (Sydney FC)**

Has relished since the arrival of Farina. Missed out on a clean sheet, thanks to his teammates' silly challenge, but nevertheless, was a force in the backline.

### **CB: Michael Beauchamp (West Sydney Wanderers)**

Not many though the Wanderers would be so high up the table in their inaugural season. Credit has to be given to captain Beauchamp who has lead the line and marshaled the backline superbly.

### **CB: Josh Rose (Central Coast)**

Continues his stellar form with another brave performance in the Derby on Saturday. Consistently provided an outlet on the wing (he set up the opener) as well as being defensive sound. One of the best full-backs in the league at present.

### RM: Fabio Ferreira (Adelaide United)

One of the buys of the season. Started the slaughter, providing the goal for Kostopoulos and scoring a peach of a goal. Another brilliant attacking showing.

### CM: Marcelo Carrusca (Adelaide United)

Marcus Flores' replacement ran the show and is providing the missing piece in the Adelaide midfield with sparkling results. A wonderful, dominant performance.

### **CM: Patrick Gerhardt (Melbourne Heart)**

Was all over the park against the Glory, bossing them around. His importance to the team is growing. LM: Marcos Rojas (Melbourne Victory)

The only positive on a bad night for the Victory. Consistently provided an outlet for his side, and tried his best to get his team back in it. Assisted and scored both his team's goals.

### ST: Evan Kostopoulos (Adelaide)

Was part of the riot that ran over the Victory. Scored twice to break his duck and open his account for the season.

### ST: Daniel McBreen (Central Coast)

The evergreen McBreen settled the F3 Derby with two beautifully struck goals, to continue his consistent form this season, sending both the Mariners and himself to the top of the charts.

### ST: Josip Tadic (Melbourne Heart)

It wasn't just because he set up the game's winner, but everything positive in the Heart's play came through him. Providing a link from the midfield to attack and was unlucky not to have scored.

### Coach: Frank Farina (Sydney FC)

His decision to double up on training sessions, looked like a sign of him punishing the Sydney squad. If it was, it worked. Sydney broke their winless streak and recorded their first win Wellington since 2008. Doing it without Alessandro Del Piero, as well as playing some decent football, was more of a bonus.

### Star Man 📜 **Marcelo Carrusca** Adelaide Utd



United fans have struggled to get over their former talisman in Flores. But the arrival of Carrusca will make them forget him. The Argentine is a genuine star and his importance is paramount to Adelaide.

### Thank God It's Friday... GW is available at all good newsagents every Friday



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7538 for further details

### **Adelaide United**



### urne Victory



### **Match Details**

Adelaide United FC 4 (Kostopoulos 3'/32', Ferreira 22', Carrusca 25') Melbourne Victory 2 (Nabbout 6', Rojas 47') Referee: Chris Beath Crowd: 14,115

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium

Adelaide United: 20.Paul Izzo (gk), 2.Osama Malik, 3.Nigel Boogaard, 5.lain Fyfe, 6.Cassio (c), 8.Marcelo Carrusca, 10. Dario Vidosic (18. Fabian Barbiero 65'), 11 Bruce Djite (21. Jeronimo Neumann 81'), 14. Cameron Watson, 22. Fabio Ferreira, 23. Evan Kostopoulos (17. lain Ramsay 76')

Substitutes not used: 30.John Hall (gk) Yellow Cards: Vidosic 1', Boogaard

40', Cassio 55', Djite 72' Red Cards: Nil

Melbourne Victory: 39.Nathan Coe (gk), 4.Petar Franjic (6.Leigh Broxham 46'), 7.Gui Finkler, 8.Jonathan Bru (17.Jimmy Jeggo 65'), 9.Marcos Flores (19.Isaka Cernak 70'), 11 Marco Rojas, 13 Diogo Ferreira, 14. Billy Celeski, 15. Sam Gallagher, 23.Adrian Leijer (c), 26.Andrew Nabbout

Substitutes not used: 1.Tando Velaphi (gk) Yellow Cards: Flores 12', Finkler 18' Leijer 30', Ferreira 33', Gallagher 79 Red Cards: Nil

# Reds victorious in six goal thriller

By Matthew Mays

An exceptional Carrusca inspired a magnificent inter-state derby for Adelaide United at a packed Hindmarsh on Friday night in a goal fest classic.

Adelaide United were looking to show Flores why he should have come back home, whilst Victory themselves were looking to extend their impressive run to 6 without

The game began with fouls flying in all over the pitch, it left us pondering that this is what derbies are all about. It took just five seconds for Flores to be hauled to the floor - welcome back!

It was important for the Reds to start well, and they almost put their woes from last week's defeat in Gosford to bed after some master class on the right from Ferriera. The Portuguese cut inside from the bye line and found an inch perfect pass to an unmarked Kostopoulos to tap in front of the Victory fans.

The goal seemed to spark an explosion. Hindmarsh erupted and produced an atmosphere which has been missing for a while. Flores booed with every single touch of the ball, but the Red's fans were soon silenced.

Five minutes in, the impressively young Marco Rojas found some space in behind Cassio, and whipped in a delightful ball back towards a grateful Nabbout. His first time strike beat Izzo, who should have palmed away.

With twenty minutes gone, United re-gained the lead after a piece of brilliance. After Watson's quick thinking throw, Carrusca wonderfully flicked the ball back to Ferriera who glided the ball into the top corner with the outside of his foot. A simply delicious goal that will be up there in the goalof-the-season contenders

Ten minutes later it got just that little bit sweeter for United. Diite, who was enjoying his second consecutive start up-front, pulls off three defenders on the edge of the box, and finds Carrusca free to curl the ball beautifully first time, sending a handful of



With eyes on the prize, Evan Kostopoulos prepares to swoop for Adelaide United. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Red's supporters into the 'Poznan'

This game was as hot as the weather, and the match thermometer went a couple of degrees higher as United scolded another ember into Victory's skin.

Carrusca whipped in a pin-point 30 metre floater to find an unmarked Kostopoulos, who headed home his second and Adelaide's fourth in just under half an hour of play. Victory felt hard done by though as replays showed Vidosic was fortunate to win the free-kick.

Victory simply couldn't contain Carrusca. Adelaide were playing the best football we've seen from them all season.

Melbourne Victory had a mountain to climb in the second half and needed a quick response -and they got it. Just two minutes in and after some poor defending Rojas produced some smart footwork to beat two defenders and pass it through a tame Izzo. whose inexperience proved costly. Hindmarsh fell silent, and memories of that Champions League performance against Bunyadkor this year (a game of two halves) came to mind. Adelaide had to put in a professional and hard-working team performance to get through this one now.

Victory's travelling brigade were loud and proud, and their team were

feeding off their voices. Adelaide become slow, nervous and defended very deep, yet Melbourne could not get back into the game helped by an impressively strong Boogard at the back. Flores had lost patience, and his

deafening cheer around the ground, including a very funny chorus of "what a waste of money! As the minutes ticked by, United

substitution 67 minutes in produces a

gained in confidence, running hard and tracking down every ball.

T he screen panned to Victory boss Postecoglou, and his face said it all. His team were well and truly beaten by an outstanding Adelaide United. As the seconds ticked, the cheers got louder, and the biggest attendance Hindmarsh has seen this season was

rocking till the final whistle.

You can keep your F3 derby - Adelaide vs. Melbourne is and always will be the battle to watch, and last Friday night the South Aussie's made their Victorian enemies look very average.

United showed grit ,and Kosmina paid tribute to his boys after the

"Considering we got done over there in the first round we did well. Football is about character and the boys showed that tonight!" The derby win sent the Reds back

to the top of the table for the night, stretching their lead over their interstate rivals to six points.



From Stamford Bridge to Hindmarsh Stadium: One-time Chelsea player Fabio Ferreira is making his mark in the A-League. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Melbourne Victory are back on level terms almost immediately thanks to Andrew Nabbout's sweeping reply. Photo: ADAM BUTLER





























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### **Melbourne Heart**



1

### **Perth Glory**



### **Match Details**

Melbourne Heart 1 (Mebrahtu 89') Perth Glory 0 Crowd: 4500 Venue: AAMI Park

Melbourne Heart: 1.Clint Bolton, 2.Simon Colosimo, 5.Fred (14. Golgol Mebrahtu 77'), 6.Patrick Gerhart, 8.Matt Thompson, 10. Josip Tadic (9.Dylan Macallister 90'), 15.David Williams, 17.Jason Hoffman, 22.Nick Kalmar (18.David Vrankovic 90'), 24.Sam Mitchinson, 25.Jeremy Walker.

Yellow cards: None. Red Cards: None.

Perth Glory: 1.Danny Vukovic, 3.Bas van Den Brink, 4.Billy Mehmet (6.Nick Ward 77'), 5.Steve Pantelidis, 7.Jacob Burns, 8.Dean Heffernan, 9.Shane Smeltz, 13.Travis Dodd (18.Jess Makarounas 84'), 14.Steve McGarry, 17.Chris Harold, 19.Joshua Risdon.

Yellow Cards: Burns 54', Vukovic 80'.

Red Cards: None.

# **Mebrahtu Provides Heart Flutters at the End**

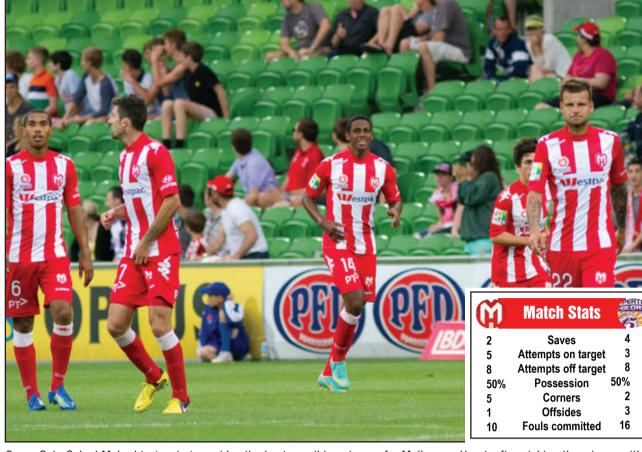
By Ian Syson

About time! About time Heart had a win. About time Melbourne Heart was rewarded with three points for their efforts in a game they just shaded.

We all know the gods of football are often happy to punish teams who dominate but fail to penetrate. But at last they were kind to a Heart line up that was missing its Socceroos and led by an out-ofsorts Fred. The last minute goal to Golgol Mebrahtu - his first one in the A League - meant that a game seemingly headed for a scoreless draw ended up in the squeakiest of victories for the Cardiac Boys. It was hard to escape Aloisi's Cheshire Cat smile after the game. And for all of Ian Ferguson's cannily delivered, gruff disappointment in the post-match presser, his bearing suggested it was result he had already accepted as being hard-but-fair.

The first half of the game was pretty awful. Heart once more looked like lost chooks, faffing about with the ball, giving away possession way too easily and shooting and crossing weakly when the many opportunities to do so arose. Kalmar seemed to switch into slow motion a number of times when in a shooting position. Unfortunately for him the Perth defence intervened at normal speed.

When Perth received possession they did a pretty good job of looking steady and capable. However, their calmer organisation seemed only to lead to impotent conclusions. Having said that, Smeltz looked somewhat dangerous a couple of times but was ultimately wayward in his attempts on goal. Perhaps their best chance of the first half came to Harold, who took advantage of Heart right back, Walker's being out of position after overlapping in attack. Harold looked good taking the ball into



Super Sub: Golgol Mebrahtu (centre) provides the best possible outcome for Melbourne Heart, after nicking the winner with only moments left on the clock. Photo: ANITA MILAS

the vicinity of the area but shot benignly and straight at a grateful Bolton.

Jeremy Walker, the young Tasmanian, held on to his place in the continued absence of Marrone and justified the glowing reports from the previous week in another solid performance. He looked undaunted against more experienced attackers and got forward well. He was found out of position a couple of times and in one instance revealed a lack of body strength when easily pushed off the ball

by a defender he tried to skin. But the young man has a fabulous future ahead of him if he can build on this performance. Perhaps the greatest compliment paid to him on the day was when the Glory's pet Rottweiler, Jacob Burns was put on him at the beginning of the second half, a challenge he took in his stride.

David Williams again took my eye. He had many opportunities to cross and/or shoot that he fluffed in the first 60 minutes. Yet he plays with such energy and commitment that it always feels that he may well do something special at any moment. In the final part of the game he came into his own, putting in two exquisite crosses from the left to an unmarked Fred who failed to convert both times.

Towards the end Perth came close,

with Bolton saving Heart's hide with two splendid saves. But in the end Heart's domination of the second half resulted in the deserved game breaker at the death, scored by a young man whose joy seemed to light up the Bubbledome.

A couple of whinges: Heart's crowd was pathetic. It's a good

club with seemingly good values and a decent list that plays an attractive if erratic brand of football, coached by the man (the right Aloisi!) whose name should forever trigger delight in the Hearts of Australian football supporters. How about turning up to support them then?

And Nick Kalmar, if you ever again dive like you did in the 83rd minute to try and get a penalty, then I will personally arrange for you to be carted off to NIDA where they will teach you to act properly. Bah!



Matt Thompson attempts to outpace the long legs of Dean Heffernan. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Tribal Brothers: Footballers of Aboriginal descent, Travis Dodd (Glory) and David Williams (Heart), go stride for stride. Photo: ANITA MILAS



### **Newcastle Jets**



### **CC Mariners**



### **Match Details**

Newcastle Jets 0 Central Coast Mariners 2 (McBreen 49', 66') Venue: Hunter Stadium

Local kick off: 7:45pm AEDT Referee: Jarred Gillett Assistants: Nathan MacDonald, Leigh Crowd: 13,112

Newcastle Jets: 2. Scott Neville, 5. Dominik Ritter, 7. James Brown (19. Michael Bridges 77'), 8. Ruben Zadkovich (c), 9. Emile Heskey, 10. Bernardo Ribeiro (17. James Virgili 61'), 11. Connor Chapman, 14. Taylor Regan, 15. Craig Goodwin, 18 Jacob Pepper (12. Josh Brillante 68'), 33. Matt Nash (gk)

Subs not used: 30. Jack Duncan (gk). Yellow cards: Chapman 82', Bridges 89' Red cards: nil

Central Coast Mariners: 2. Daniel McBreen, 3. Joshua Rose, 4. Pedj Bojic (5. Zachary Anderson 80'), 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk, 7. John Hutchinson (c), 9. Bernie Ibini (8. Adriano Pellegrino 74'), 11. Oliver Bozanic (19. Mitchell Duke 59'), 14. Michael McGlinchey, 16. Trent Sainsbury, 18. Nick Montgomery, 20. Justin Pasfield (gk)

Subs not used: 30. David Bradasevic

Yellow cards: Sainsbury 16' Red cards: nil

# **Brace for Macca helps sink disjointed Jets**

By Shanu Dyas

The Newcastle Jets have meekly succumbed to their arch rivals the Central Coast Mariners 2-0 in front of 13,112 fans at Hunter

born striker Daniel McBreen took his league leading goal tally to 9 goals with both strikes in a deserved victory for the Mari-

He scored his first after 49 minutes. He was on the end of a fine cut back from Mariners left back Josh Rose and crunched a side footed effort past the helpless Matthew Nash from 15 yards.

His second came on 66 minutes after some woeful defending from the home side. A Michael McGlinchev corner was headed into the corner of the net by McBreen from the edge of the six yard box after the veteran striker was left all alone by a Jets defence who quite simply went to

His coach Graham Arnold was suitably impressed by the performance of his veteran striker.

'Macca is in wonderful form. I think that's his first goal against Newcastle and he is a Newcastle boy so he is very happy tonight," he said.

Newcastle coach Gary Van Egmond was less than impressed with the defending of his side.

The goal from the corner was terrible. You could have driven a truck through there," was the frank assessment of Van Egmond.

Earlier, it was a cautious opening as neither side wanted to give their opponent an inch. The result was a very scrappy affair and typical of the early skirmishes in an F3 derby. The home team was really struggling for any momentum and the Mariners began to assert their authority on the con-

Oliver Bozanic had the first real chance of the contest in the 21st minute. An innocuous long ball from the Mariners led to confusion in the Jets makeshift defence. Bozanic beat Jets keeper Matthew Nash to the ball



Daniel McBreen does it again, leaving Jets keeper Matt Nash to ask questions of his defence. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

but his lob from the edge of the box went narrowly wide.

A lightning counter from the home side delivered a corner on 24 minutes. The Mariners didn't clear their lines sufficiently and Craig Goodwin fired in a right footed volley from 25 vards that flashed wide of Justin Pasfield's right upright.

Bozanic had a fantastic opportunity on 32 minutes. Some neat movement and a slide rule pass from McBreen led to Bozanic having a strike from 15 metres that went straight into the bread basket of a grateful Nash.

Bozanic, in tandem with McBreen continued to look dangerous and a neat one-two led to another half chance that the former nudged past Nash's near post.

The Mariners should have scored in the 42nd minute. The ball was cut back to McBreen by Mariners left back Josh Rose just inside the box. He shot straight at Nash who fumbled back into the striker's path. Nash then somehow blocked the follow up shot into the path of Bernie Ibini who had his effort blocked by the desperate defence of the home side.

McBreen finally opened the scoring for the visitors in the 49th minute. It meant that now McBreen, who had never previously scored against the Jets, has now scored against every

It was a lucky escape for the Jets.

team in the A-League, except for the newly formed Western Sydney Wanderers.

Heskey almost equalised for Newcastle in the 54th minute. He smashed a first time shot that went just wide of the post after he was played in behind the Mariners defence, the crowd on the far side thought the ball was in but it only hit the side netting. It was one of the few chances the home side managed to create in the match.

Bozanic was subbed off on 59 minutes after he failed to recover from an earlier head clash with Connor Chapman. He had an egg the size of a golf ball on his head and common

sense prevailed and young Mitchel Duke was his replacement.

This didn't really stop the visitors and in truth the Mariners could have made the result even more comfort able as they continually threatened in attack against a home side which looked completely devoid of confidence.

The Jets have now only won once in their past six games and face a difficult trip to Perth, where they traditionally struggle.

The Mariners will look to continue their solid form at home next week end against the Melbourne Heart who are coached by former Mariners player John Aloisi.



Just in case we weren't sure, hot-shot Daniel McBreen makes it clear who got the opening goal in the F3 derby. Photo: PETER NEVILLE



Trent Sainsbury (Mariners) anticipates Craig Goodwin's (Jets) manouvre. Photo: PETER NEVILLE



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### **Wellington Phoenix**



1

### Sydney FO



2

### **Match Details**

Wellington Phoenix 1 (Jeremy Brockie 91) Sydney FC 2 (Sebastian Ryall 45, Rhyan Grant 70) Venue: Westpac Stadium Referee: Kris Griffiths-Jones

Sydney FC: 20. Vedran Janjetovic, 2. Sebastian Ryall, 3. Fabio, 4. Pascal Bosschaart, 6. Jason Culina (9. Paul Reid '61), 8. Adam Griffiths, 12. Blake Powell (24. Hagi Gligor '89), 15. Terry Mcflynn (C), 21. Yairo Yau, 22. Ali Abbas, 23. Rhyan Grant (14. Mitch Mallia '78). Sub Not Used: 1. Ivan Necevski. Yellow Cards: Mcflynn 13 And 85,

Powell 37, Abbas 77, Griffiths 91.

Red Card: Mcflynn 85.

Wellington Phoenix: 1. Mark Paston, 7. Leo Bertos, 18. Ben Sigmund, 22. Andrew Durante (C), 3. Tony Lochhead, 2. Manny Muscat, 6. Alex Smith (16. Louis Fenton '54), 17. Vince Lia, 8. Paul Ifill (9. Benjamin Totori '71), 10. Stein Huysegems (12. Tyler Boyd '54), 11. Jeremy Brockie.

Sub Not Used: 30. Griffin Mcmaster. Yellow Cards: Brockie 9, Bertos 74.

# Resurgent Sydney FC Topple Hapless Phoenix

By Joe Gallagher

Frank Farina's reign as Sydney FC coach is off to a great start with the Sky Blues registering their third win of the season in Wellington on Sunday.

The 2-1 win, while not enough to improve Sydney's position at the foot of the ladder, means Farina's side are now just two points from the top six having picked up four points from his first two games in charge.

Wellington Phoenix remain fifth but the loss – their second at home this season – sees Ricki Herbert's side lose touch with the leading pack. The scoreline flatters a Phoenix side who barely threatened until a flurry in the final five minutes.

Wellington were unchanged from the side which dealt a 1-0 win to Western Sydney last weekend, while Farina was still without Brett Emerton (international duty) and star marquee Alessandro del Piero due to injury.

The opening half was not much of a spectacle, with the referee's whistle and both sides' inability to maintain possession breaking up the flow of the game.

After 16 minutes Yairo Yau blazed his effort high and wide when found in space by Jason Culina. The best chance for the home side came as Jeremy Brockie volleyed a Paul Ifill cross into the side netting in an otherwise dull first 45 minutes.

But in stoppage time, Wellington paid the price for affording too much space to the dangerous Culina. The midfielder's cross to the head of Sebastian Ryall was inchperfect. Ryall's finish left Mark Paston with no chance in goal, and the Phoenix went into the sheds a goal down.

Whatever Herbert said at half time failed to do the trick - the second period was more of the same for the hosts. They continued



Terry McFlynn (SFC) and Phoenix's Ben Sigmund and Tyler Boyd get airborne. Photo: PETER McDONALD

to fail to string together a set of passes, lacked movement off the ball and coughed up possession with alarming ease. Herbert's response was to introduce Benjamin Totori, Tyler Boyd, and Louis Fenton – who had terrorised the Sky Blues in their most recent meeting.

But it was the away side who scored the decisive goal, Terry McFlynn's superb through ball finding Rhyan Grant, who beat the offside trap and slotted the ball into Paston's net in front of the travelling fans.

It took until the final five minutes for Wellington to display

some urgency in attack, and they were gifted an opening back into the match as McFlynn handled Vince Lia's shot and was given a second yellow card. The handball should have been punished with a penalty kick, but the referee adjudged that contact had been made outside the area. Brockie's resulting free kick was straight at Ianietovic.

But in stoppage time Wellington did win a spot-kick. Fenton's ball in found Manny Muscat, who was hauled to ground by Adam Griffiths. Brockie converted from 12 yards to score his seventh goal in six games. The drama was not done there, as only a sprawling save by Vedran Janjetovic kept Brockie from a miraculous brace in the dying seconds. The New Zealand international's header was goal-bound until the keeper palmed it wide.

Wellington were unable to find another goal and Sydney hung on to record their first win in five matches, their first victory against the Phoenix in five attempts and their first in Wellington since 2008.

The result was a fair reflection of a match in which the hosts were extraordinarily flat, and registered just four shots on target in the entire match. To have come away with a point from this match would have been an injustice, a point Herbert acknowledged in his post-match interview.

A resurgent Sydney fly home for the Sydney Derby next weekend while Wellington are on the road again to face Adelaide United at Hindmarsh.

Curiously, it has been their performances on the road that have kept the Phoenix in the hunt this season, as their form at Westpac Stadium has deserted them. A worrying sign for Herbert is that a trip to New Zealand is no longer as daunting as it once was.



Wellington's Alex Smith flicks the switch for some turbo dribbling. Photo: PETER McDONALD



Thou Shalt Not Pass: Wellington's Ben Sigmund may have lost his footing but is reluctant to surrender possession. Photo: PETER McDONALD



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### **Brisbane Roar**



### **Match Details**

Western Sydney Wanderers 1 (Ono 87' (pen)) Brisbane Roar 0

Parramatta Stadium, Parramatta Referee: Alan Milliner Crowd: 6755

Western Sydney Wanderers: 1. Ante Covic (GK), 2. Shannon Cole (12. Tahj Minniecon 67'), 3. Adam D'Apuzzo, 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley, 5. Michael Beauchamp (capt), 6. Jerome Polenz, 8. Mateo Poljak, 13. Joseph Gibbs (9. Dino Kresinger 75'), 17. Youssouf Hersi, 18. lacopo La Rocca (23. Jason Trifiro 62'), 21. Shinji Ono.

Substitutes not used: 20. Jerrard Tyson (GK).

Yellow cards: Hersi (27'), D'Apuzzo

Red cards: Ni

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theo (GK), 3. Shane Stefanutto (capt), 4. Matt Jurman 6 Frik Paartalu 7 Besart Berisha, 8. Massimo Murdocca, 10. Henrique (17. Mitch Nichols 63'), 11. Ben Halloran (21. James Meyer 88'), 15. James Donachie, 19. Jack Hingert (13. Yuji Takahashi 88'), 22. Thomas Broich.

Substitutes not used: 20. Matt Acton

Yellow cards: Stefanutto (26'), Nichols (66'), Jurman (85'), Theo (86') Red cards: Nil

# **Lightning Strikes Twice For Wanderers**

By Magnus Lewington

A late Shinji Ono penalty has put the Western Sydney Wanders into the top four following an important 1:0 home win against the defending champions Brisbane Roar who are no second from bottom following their second loss to the Wanderers this season.

In front of a crowd of almost 7000 at Parramatta Stadium, the home side was the more dangerous of the two and had numerous chances to score, and were rewarded in the 87th minute with a goal from their Japanese start Shinji Ono who converted from the spot.

It was the Japanese import's first A-League goal but his side were forced to survive a tense finish before claiming all three points.

With time almost up, goalkeeper Ante Covic pulled off a great save to thwart Erik Paartalu's powerful header. Then, in the space of seconds, both Mitch Nichols and Shane Stefanutto hit the woodwork with long-range efforts.

Croatian striker Dino Kresinger had much to be thanked for the victory after he won the penalty after being brought down in the box by Matthew

The hosts went into the game nursing an unwanted record of poor returns for chances created and nothing changed early.

Youssouf Hersi, returned from a twomatch ban, was desperately unlucky not to open his A-League account on eight minutes when his thundering drive from outside the box hit the underside of the crossbar and rebounded to safety. Five minutes later, Mateo Poliak's

headed towards the target until the slightest of deflections sent the ball just wide. Brisbane's best opportunity arrived on the half-hour, Poljak robbed of

well-struck shot from distance was

possession and the ball quickly distributed to Ben Halloran. His pace allowed him to motor into the box but the No.11 poked his shot

just wide of the right post.



Thunderstruck: The Wanderers repeat the feat and complete a 1-0 shock win over the Roar for a second time this season. Photo: ALI ERHAN

It was the only real moment of consternation for the Wanderers' defence in the first 45 minutes.

Up front they continued to trouble Brisbane. Jerome Polenz's lovely ball from the back released Hersi and he rolled a

perfect pass for Iacopo La Rocca to lob his shot onto the roof of the net. Roar lifted their intensity in the second half, Paartalu's low shot in the 47th minute forcing Covic into a good save with his legs.

Half chances presented themselves at both ends before the game really came to life in the final five minutes.

Ono's penalty broke the stalemate but the Roar were desperately unlucky not to snatch a point at the death after bombarding the Wanderers' goal.

It's the Wanderers' second 1-0 win over the defending champions this season.

Tony Popovic, manager, Western Sydney Wanderers says "We've been rewarded, finally, for some of the great football we've been playing. We've created a lot of opportunities especially shots on goal - in the games up to date without any reward. Today I felt we got some reward for some good play and I'm really pleased for

Popovic says "There wasn't any panic" among the coaching staff as time ticked away, adding he always believed his team could manufacture a winner, which they did when Shinji One tucked home a late penalty.

"I'm just encouraged that we can play that way," he said. "We can make a run that way, we can build up in that fashion, we can create an opportunity. As long as you keep seeing that, you don't lose belief.'

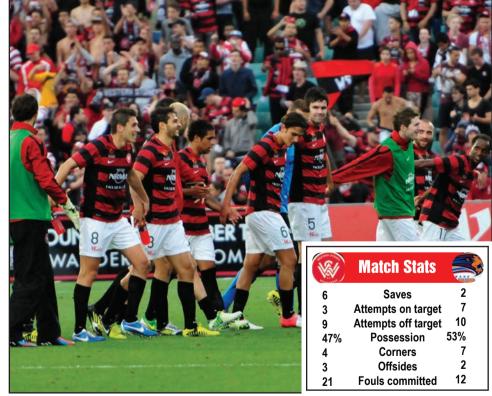
"Fans have their views - I didn't even notice whether it was a clap or a boo - but I've got no idea about that stuff.

He came on and he did a good job. He won the penalty and he showed some good signs and it was great to see him play with confidence." Popovic concludes

Rado Vidosic, manager, Brisbane Roar says, "In the first half it was a little bit hard - we didn't adjust to their long balls and [playing] against the wind but in the second half I think we controlled the game," he said. "When you look at the clear-cut chances, we probably had more. We've lost the points we did not deserve to lose.



Roar keeper Michael Theo gets down low to keep the Wanders at bay, as Nikolai Topr-Stanley and fans share the anguish in unison. Photo: ALI ERHAN



The Wanderers share the joy with their Parramatta faithful after the final whistle. Photo: ALI ERHAN



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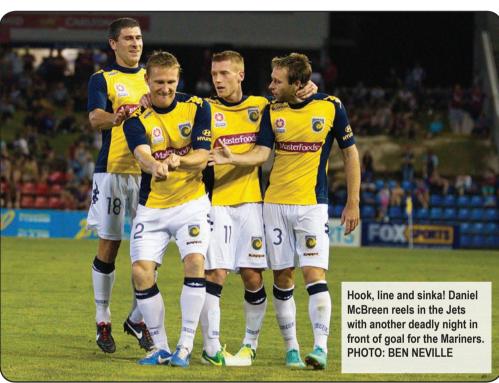
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# **PICS OF ROUND 10**

Les Shorrock's Action Packed Picture Page























### **Mariners Line Up**

. Mathew Ryan (Gk) . Daniel McBreen . Joshua Rose Pedj Bojic
 Zachary Anderson
 Patrick Zwaanswijk
 John Hutchinson (c)
 Adriano Pellegrino
 Romaio Ibini

9. Bernie Ibini

10. Tomas Rogic 13. Brent Griffiths 14. Michael McGlir

15. Brad McDonald 16. Trent Sainsbury

17. Anthony Caceres 18. Nick Montgomery 19. Mitchell Duke

21. Mile Sterjovski

\*Five to be omitted

In: 1. Mathew Ryan (Gk), 10. Tomas

Rogic (both return from Qantas Socceroos duty), 13. Brent Griffiths, 15. Brad McDonald, 17. Anthony Caceres (all promoted), 21. Mile Sterjovski (returns from injury), 23. Adam Kwasnik (promoted)

Out: 11. Oliver Bozanic (Mild Concussion – 1 week), 30. David Bradasevic (Gk) (returns to NYL)

Unavailable: 22. James Oates (Ankle

derby.

And played ruthless, methodical football in the process.

This is a special team that Graham Arnold has put together, and when they are back playing with the full deck (as Daniel McBreen appeared to be doing when celnight), then God help the rest.

in a salary-capped competition, and rarely do we see a sustained run. Brisbane of course had their famous streak across Seasons 6 and 7, and at the risk of putting the kiss of death on the Mariners

### **CC Mariners v Melbourne Heart**

### Fri Dec 14 Bluetongue Stdm 7:30pm

### By Adrian Deans

People often say that the A-League has gone to a new level over the last two and a bit seasons, but I would suggest that the Mariners have lifted yet again.

They are the stand out team, so far, in Season 8, but for the last two weeks they were missing three of their biggest stars. Mat Rvan and Tom Rogic were away with the (ultimately victorious) Socceroos and Mile Sterjovski was out injured - and look what they achieved. They defeated the ladder leaders to go top themselves, then won away in the F3

ebrating his first goal the other Or so you would think.

League. Form can be so fleeting - are we seeing the beginnings of another significant non-losing

That's the thing about the A-



streak?

You can sense the confidence surging in the Central Coast camp. There is genuine depth and competition for places - in contrast to other clubs where the ringing of changes is more to do with coaches searching for a successful combination. Every week Arnie has decisions to make based on more than 11 blokes putting their hand up and demanding selection - a nice problem to have.

Join the conversation on Twitter

One of the season's real delights is the form of Daniel McBreen. So often in the past he's been content to be the valuable squad man - coming on at the death 

grab the occasional goal. This year his impact has been stunning, and his technique in front of goal a real lesson for the up-andcomers. When I mentioned to him on the weekend that he was only one goal away from starting contract negotiations for another season, he looked at me like I was an idiot. I suspect he is already negotiating a new contract, but if the Mariners don't move quickly to shore him up for next year, someone else will.

The Heart, however, are not without their own stars. They get Marrone, Behich and Garcia back from Socceroos duty - and I, for one, see Marrone and Behich as bona fide contenders for the Socceroos first team over the next couple of years. I'd have to say I was awfully impressed with young Jeremy Walker filling in for Marrone in the last two weeks. He's a real talent and will certainly have a fine career. But the Mariners will be just a bit

too strong this time. Adrian Deans is the author of Mr

Cleansheets - published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores.

**Kiss of Death Mariners 2-0 Heart** 



- Clint Bolton (GK)

- 4. Simon Colosimo 5. Fred
- 5. Fred 6. Patrick Gerhardt 8. Matthew Thompson 9. Dylan Macallister 10. Josip Tadic 11. Richard Garcia 14. GolGol Mebrahtu

- 14. Goldon Medianta
  15. David Williams
  16. Aziz Behich
  17. Jason Hoffman
  18. David Vrankovic
  20. Andrew Redmayne (GK)
  22. Nick Kalmar
- one to be omitted

Ins: 2. Michael Marrone (returns from international duty – Qantas Socceroos), 11. Richard Garcia (returns international duty – Qantas Socceroos), 16. Aziz Behich (returns from international duty)

Outs: 24. Sam Mitchinson (omit-ted), 25. Jeremy Walker (omitted)

Unavailable: 13. Jonatan Germano 19. Benjamin Garuccio (ankle 4-5 weeks), 23. Mate Dugandzic (broken foot 8-12 weeks), 31. Vince Grella (fitness - undisclosed)



### **Glory Line Up**

1.Danny Vukovic (gk) 3.Bas van den Brink 4.Billy Mehmet 5.Steve Pantelidis 6.Nick Ward 7.Jacob Burns (c) 8.Dean Heffernan 11.Adrian Zahra 12.Ryo Nagai 13.Travis Dodd 14.Steven McGarry 15.Brandon O'Neill

17.Chris Harold 18.Jesse Makarounas 19.Josh Risdon

21.Scott Jamieson 23.Michael Thwaite

Ins: 10.Liam Miller (returns from injury), 12.Ryo Nagai (returns from injury), 21.Scott Jamieson (returns from international duty), 23.Michael Thwaite (returns from international duty),

Unavailable:16.Evan Berger (hamstring - indefinite)

### **Perth Glory v Newcastle Jets**

### Fri Dec 14 nib Stadium 9:45pm



played consistently with a lot

It's been a tumultuous season

for Perth Glory; they haven't

By Juanita Shepherd

of highs and lows, they've seen thrilling victories and crushing defeats, so anything can happen when they take on Newcastle Jets at nib Stadium on December 14.

The Jets are a formidable force to be reckoned with, winning all their pre-season games including their game against Brisbane Roar, the defending champions of last season's A-League, with Gary van Egmond in charge the Newcastle Jets are gaining a reputation as a intimidating opponent.

Then there's the small matter of Emilie Heskey, who signed to the Jets on September 21 for the 2012/2013 season. With the world renowned English Premier League to his name there is not much that Emilie Heskev can't do, except perhaps break through the Glory's defences.

While the Jets are no easy team to take on, it should be noted that the last time Perth Glory played them on home turf they beat them 3-2.

Glory's defences are impenetrable and with the combined efforts and skills of Thwaite. Smeltz, Miller and Mehmet the Newcastle Jets will have to give it all they've got to score the much needed winning goal and gain those coveted points which both teams will be after.

Perth Glory and Newcastle Jets

are both strong teams with a number of players who have been promoted from the youth squad. There is a possibility that the game might just come down to the fact that the younger players from both teams spend the full 90 minutes shadowing each other to let the veterans from both teams go for goal. Glory's Josh Risdon who was promoted from the youth squad has definitely proven himself in previous matches and it will be interesting to see how he plays against Newcastle Jets Mitchell Oxborrow, who like Risdon was promoted from the youth squad to the A-League. The other Glory players will be kept occupied by the skills of Tiago, Josh Mitchell, Scott Neville (a former Glory player) and Michael

It will be an interesting game to watch, very unpredictable with the chances of anything happening. Glory lost their smooth winning streak on home turf but if they go into the game with their famed steely determination chances are

they will come away with a win, having said that Newcastle Jets should be given the credit that they are due. Under the watchful eye of Van Egmond and with the combined forces of Tiago, Neville and Heskey not to mention Birighitti who is a worthy match against Danny Vukovic, the game could swing in favour of the Jets. Anything can happen when Perth Glory takes on Newcastle Jets.

> Kiss of Death Glory 2-2 Jets



### **Jets Line Up**

2. Scott Neville

3. Tiago Calvano4. Josh Mitchell

9. Emile Heskey

11. Connor Chapman 12. Josh Brillante

15. Craig Goodwin

17. James Virgili 22. Adam Taggart

23. Ryan Griffiths 24. Mitch Oxborrov

26. Andrew Hoole

30. Jack Duncan (gk) 33. Matt Nash (gk)

\*one to be omitted

ns: Tiago Calvano, Josh Mitchell, Adam Taggart, Ryan Griffiths,

Outs: James Brown, Bernardo Ribeiro, Taylor Regan, Jacob Pepper and Michael Bridges

Unavailable: Ben Kennedy (knee), Ben Kantarovski (knee), Mark Birighitti (cheekbone) and Jobe Wheelhouse (knee)

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HUNTER

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the season.

the Roar.

By Andrew Bishara

If there is one clash this week-

end, where both teams are

coming off bad weeks, it would

be this one. Brisbane Roar,

champion of the A-League,

sit equal bottom of the table with Sydney. Few would have

expected the champions to be

They have already lost six times

this season. The sixth: their sec-

ond 1-0 loss to the West Sydney

Wanderers this season. It was a

match that summed up the Roar's

season so far: dominant in pos-

chances, but a poor lack of execu-

tion in front of goal. For a team

known for its attacking vibrancy,

they have only scored 13 goals so

far this season. Their goal differ-

ence is 0. Something that many

thought would not be case with

Coach Rado Vidosic, maintains

though that if the Roar keep play-

ing the way they have this season,

their luck will change. "We just

need to keep working and keep

believing in ourselves," said Vid-

"When you look at the clear-cut

chances, we probably had more.

All we need to do is believe in our

system and keep working hard.

Sooner or later, our luck will turn

and we're going to start winning

By Magnus Lewington

Sydney FC hosts their cross-

town rivals the Western Sydney

Wonderers this Saturday evening as the Sky Blues attempt to

continue their recent improve-

ments under new coach Frank

Conversely, the Wonderers enter

this game as one of the season's dark horses, having emerged as

genuine competitors under Tony

Popovich despite pre-season pes-

simism regarding their chances as

competition new boys. Considering

their relative form coming into this

match, it promises much in terms

of both physicality and quality. With

FC winning in Wellington (their

least successful away fixture histor-

ically) and the Wonderers coming

off a victory against the champions

Brisbane Roar, the bumper crowd

predicted for the second Sydney

derby of the season will be hoping

The squads come into the match

nearing full strength, with FC

sweating on the return of marquee

man Alessandro Del Piero and both

teams seeing players return from

the East Asia Cup Qualifiers (Brett

Emerton, Terry Antonis and Aaron

Mooy). Jason Culina will be given

another opportunity to improve his

match fitness and find his touch;

while both goal scorers form last

week, Rhyan Grant and Sebastian

Ryall, are fit and available for Syd-

ney. Culina stated during the week

that FC still have a lot of work to do

for an entertaining game.





### **Victory Line Up**

1. Tando VELAPHI (GK) 3. Adama TRAORE 4. Petar FRANJIC 5. Mark MILLIGAN

6. Leigh BROXHAM 7. Gui FINKLER

8. Jonathan BRU

9. Marcos FLORES 10. Archie THOMPSON 11. Marco ROJAS

13. Diogo FERREIRA 14. Billy CELESKI

15. Sam GALLAGHER

16. Theo MARKELIS 17. Jimmy JEGGO 19. Isaka CERNAK

21. Spase DILEVSKI 23. Adrian LEIJER (c 26. Andrew NABBOUT

39. Nathan COE (GK)
\*five to be omitted

Ins: Adama Traore (returns from injury), Spase DILEVSKI (returns from injury), Theo MARKELIS (returns from suspension), Archie THOMPSON (returns from international duty), Mark MIL-LIGAN (returns from international

Out: Nil Unavailable: Nil

### **Melbourne Victory v Brisbane Roar**

### Sat Dec 15 AAMI Park 5:30pm



On the other side of the coin. Melbourne Victory has been in good form, apart from last weekend's demolition. Torn apart in the first 30 minutes, by a rampart Adelaide side, Victory succumbed to a 4-2 loss. This will be their chance to get back on the winning path and what a better team to do it against. The last time this side met, the

Roar produced their best performance this season: a 5-0 whitewash against former mentor Ange Postecoglou's team. It was side of what many thought would symbolize the season: a transitional phase for the Victory and the Roar about to kick off another title defence. Ten rounds in, and its Victory who are sitting third and are in contention for the title; while the Roar are second last. Brisbane defender Jack Hingert

admitting that the game against

the Victory is essential if the Roar want to get back into finals conten-"It's still early in the season, but week by week the finals are get-

ting closer," said Hingert. "It's now or never. If we'd won on the weekend we'd be fourth. Two or three wins on the trot would put us back up there." Vidosic will have the benefit of

welcoming back Socceroos duo. skipper Matt Smith and right-back Ivan Franjic. While Victory boss Ange Postecoglou will have striker Archie Thompson and Mark Milligan back on deck, after admitting last week that the lack of depth against Adelaide hurt the team in their chances.

With returning stars and both sides coming off embarrassing defeats, expect Vidosic and Postecoglou to marshal their boys for the win. Brisbane needs to get their season back on track. However, you'll hard pressed to look past a

> **Kiss of Death** Victory 1-1 Roar



### **Roar Line Up**

- 1. Michael Theo (GK)
- 2. Matt Smith (capt)
- 3. Shane Stefanutto 4. Matt Jurman
- 5. Ivan Franjic
- 6. Erik Paartalu 7. Besart Berisha
- 8. Massimo Murdocca
- 10. Henrique 11. Ben Halloran
- 13. Yuji Takahashi
- 16. Do Dong-Hyun 17. Mitch Nichols
- 19. Jack Hingert 20. Matt Acton (GK)
- 21. James Meyer 22. Thomas Broich
- 24. Nick Fitzgerald. \*three to be omitted\*

In: Matt Smith (returns from international duty), Ivan Franjic (returns from international duty), Nick Fitzgerald (promoted), Do Dong-Hyun (promoted)

Out: James Donachie (calf – 1

Unavailable: Nil

# **SYDNEY**

### **Sydney FC Line Up**

- 1. Ivan Necevski (gk)
- 2. Sebastian Ryall
- Jason Culina
- 7. Brett Emerton
- 9. Paul Reid
- 10. Alessandro Del Piero12. Blake Powell14. Mitch Mallia
- 17. Terry Antonis
- 20. Vedran Janjetovic (gk) 21. Yairo Yau 22. Ali Abbas

- 23. Rhyan Grant 24. Hagi Gligor (two to be omitted)

In: Alessandro Del Piero (returns from injury), Terry Antonis (returns from international duty), Brett Emerton (returns from international duty)

Out: Terry McFlynn (suspended,

Unavailable: Nil

# **Sydney FCv West Sydney Wanderers**

# Sat Dec 15 Allianz Stadium 7:45pm



in order to stake their claim on a position higher in the table, and Farina will hope that a continuation of recent positive results will help his team coalesce into a more competitive unit. Western Sydney will hope that Shinji Ono's first goal of the season last week against the Roar will give momentum to their marquee, with consistency the name of the game as both defensively and offensively the Wonderer's remain a work in progress.

In the broader context of the league table, this fixture once again demonstrates the dynamic and unpredictable nature of the A-League competition. Where Sydney two weeks ago were firmly anchored to

sit just three points - a single win away from their opponents Wonderer's sitting in fourth position. Farina will take heart from the way his side has bounced back from a shocking run of performances prior to Ian Crook's sacking, and will hope to push on with efforts to climb through the pack of teams currently chasing front-runners Central Coast Mariners and Adelaide United. Considering that one of the three

the bottom of the ladder, they now

solitary victories that Sydney has achieved this year was over the Wonderer's at Paramatta Stadium, the Sky Blues will be confident in their ability to take all three points from this fixture. While the Wonderer's have been particularly impressive in both picking up points and playing aggressive football in their inaugural season, they still in many spheres of the pitch (particularly attack) lack consistency. With a group of returning players

and a growing sense of confidence, Sydney has the opportunity to demonstrate their intentions to the rest of the League and further turn the corner after the slow start they have endured in the 2012-13 season. A close match, but a Sydney win at Allianz this Saturday.

**Kiss of Death Sydney 2-1 Wanderers** 



### **Wanderers Line Up**

- 1. Ante Covic (GK)
- Shannon Cole Adam D'apuzzo
- l. Nikolai Topor-Stanley 5. Michael Beauchamp (c)
- Jerome Polenz

- 9. Dino Kresinger
- 11. Tarek Elrich
- 12. Tahj Minniecon 13. Joey Gibbs 14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi
- 15. Reece Caira 17. Youssouf Hersi

- 18. Iacopo La Rocca 19. Mark Bridge 20. Jerrad Tyson (GK)
- 21. Shinji Ono 23. Jason Trifiro
- six to be omitted

n: 7. Labinot Haliti (promoted), 10. Aaron Mooy (returns from in-ternational duty), 11. Tarek Elrich,

14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi, 15. Reece Caira, (all promoted), 19. Mark Bridge (returns from injury)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: Nil

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### Adelaide Utd Line Up

1.Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c) 2.Osama Malik 3.Nigel Boogaard 5.lain Fyfe 8.Marcelo Carrusca 10.Dario Vidosic

11.Bruce Djite 14.Cameron Watson 17.lain Ramsay 18. Fabian Barbiero 20.Paul Izzo (gk) 21.Jeronimo Neumann 22. Fabio Ferreira 23.Evan Kostopoulos

The Reds though welcome back In: Eugene Galekovic (gk) (returns from international with the Socceroos.

"The crowd were simply amazing tonight, but where are these fans every week? We need these

Adelaide Utd v Wellington Phoenix Sun Dec 16 Hindmarsh Stadium 5:00pm

By Matt Mays

Adelaide United will be looking to build on that magnificent night last Friday with another home win to take them hot on Central Coast's heels - But Wellington will be no walkover.

The Reds thankfully have no new injury news, despite concerns after Vidosic limped off early in the second half. Djite will be looking to start his third consecutive game but Kosmina does have options on the bench. The likes of Van Dijk (who scored twice for the reserves on Saturday), Ramsey and Jeronimo are struggling to get into the team, but prove United have depth and healthy competition in the squad for the boss to ponder. But why fix something that's not broken?

their star keeper Galekovic, who returns from his spell in Asia

Meanwhile boss John Kosmina was thrilled at the turnout at Hindmarsh last Friday night, but stated in his post-match press conference his confusion about the consistency of the attendances this season.

fans to come back. They come



to watch us play soccer, so come and watch us every time.' Friday night brought the biggest attendance at Hindmarsh of the

"We play Wellington next week; will these fans be here for that game? We need them."

Now I don't think at all that Kosmina was being ungrateful at all, but from watching the game from the stands, seeing a packed stadium does indeed make a huge difference.

It seems Adelaide have a great team spirit in the camp at the moment, and Kosmina also stated this week that he intends to keep all of his team together, ahead of the January transfer window.

"We don't want to sell. It's not a guarantee but we are not looking to bring any players in either." In the meantime, the Wellington Phoenix are finding it hard to maintain any kind of consistency

at the moment. With no win in the last 3 and a tame defeat to the lowly Sydney, Phoenix boss Rickie Herbert will be asking his players to step it up from here

He may result in fielding some young blood to the side after impressive run-outs from Louis Fenton, Tyler Boyd and Benji Totori last week against Sydney.

"The young boys added something and have thrown themselves into the mix for Adelaide away next week, and Dani Sanchez is now fit again so there is another possibility" Herbert

Herbert may need more than just his youngsters for this trip. The Reds are playing some decent stuff at the moment.

**Kiss of Death Adelaide 3-1 Phoenix** 



### **Phoenix Line Up**

1.Mark Paston (GK)

2. Manny Muscat

3. Tony Lochhead 6. Alex Smith

7. Leo Bertos

8. Paul Ifill

9. Benjamin Totori

10. Stein Huysegems

11. Jeremy Brockie

12. Tyler Boyd

16. Louis Fenton 17. Vince Lia

18. Ben Sigmund 21. Dani Sanchez

22. Andrew Durante (C)

30. Griffin McMaster (GK)

one to be omitted

In: Dani Sanchez (returns from injury)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: Lucas Pantelis (knee injury - indefinite)

# All-Star concept hits Australian shores

**A-League Rewind** 

Out: John Hall (gk) (returns

Unavailable: Jake Barker-

Daish (groin - 1 week)



### By Robert Di Fabio

It's been an exciting week for Australian football. Governing body Football Federation Australia announced the tour of English powerhouse Manchester United, where it will lock horns with the A-League All-Stars on July 20, 2013 at Sydney's ANZ Stadium. A fixture which has many waiting with a great deal of anticipation. For the first time since 1999, football giant's Manchester United will be visiting Australia. Many fans will have fond memories of their last tour down under, when the Red Devils faced the Socceroos in a two-legged encounter, in Melbourne and Sydney. From reports, demand has been at a premium, with thousands of tickets snapped up within minutes of opening to the general public. In many

ways, this shows the global pulling power of the 19-time English champion, and more importantly illustrates football's potential pulling power in Australia's cluttered sporting

The match will be played at the Olympic Stadium – an arena the Red Devils played the last time they toured Australia with organisers confirming that United will be fielding its full squad in the star-studded exhibition game.

"I'm delighted that the NSW Government's agency, Destination NSW, in partnership with ANZ Stadium, has won an Australian and New Zealand exclusive to host Manchester United in NSW, the home of world class sport," NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell said.

"Manchester United is the most successful English football club in history, having won 19 Premier League titles, 11 FA Cups and three European Cups, and the match against our A-League team promises to be an exhilarating contest.

FFA CEO David Gallop also revealed that the A-League All-Stars team would be picked by the fans - a fantastic initiative, with fan engagement a key priority under Gallop's rein as

The structure is not entirely known at present; however it is believed that fans will vote for a preliminary squad of A-League players, where a panel from the FFA will decide on a final

The All-Stars concept is one which has a mass amount of potential, and will certainly be an outstanding success in Australia. The notion is derived from American sports; in football's case, the MLS All-Stars team has received a glut of worldwide media attention each year.

In 2012, the MLS All-Stars was on show for its 17th successive year, facing reigning European and FA Cup winner's Chelsea. The English side didn't field its most potent line-up; but was overhauled nonetheless by the All-Star team, losing 3-2 in a tightly fought contest.

The only downside to next year's edition will be the absence of some A-League Socceroos players, who will be on duty in South Korea, following the national team's qualification on Sunday for the AFC East Asian Cup next July – involving host's South Korea, Japan and

On the contrary, there will be

a raft of talented players up for selection, including some of the league's best visa players. The likes of Alessandro Del Piero, Thomas Broich, Marcos Flores, Emile Heskey, Marcelo Carrusco and Besart Berisha will all provide an enticing exhibition of football.

"It's early days but certainly the interest has been overwhelming and an annual fixture is something that clearly we'd be extremely interested in," Gallop explained.

"In some respects it's analogous to Alessandro Del Piero, in that having Manchester United here and making it a success may well entice other overseas clubs to turn their eyes to the A-League.

"Therefore it's all blue skies ahead."

Whatever the outcome is of this glamour friendly, it's sure to put the A-League on the world map, with millions of viewers anticipated to tune in across the globe. Well done to all parties involved, from the FFA. NSW Government, to Manchester United, for getting this innovative idea, to become a reality.

Follow Robert on Twitter @ RobertDiFabio



The news that National Technical Director Han Berger will be seeing out his FFA contract in a reduced part-time capacity is already being claimed as a victory by some detractors of the National Curriculum, who object to the overtly-'Dutch' flavour of the content among other things. Without proselytising the merits of the Dutch 4-3-3 philosophy/system over others, it bears keeping in mind that any

mass implementation in any field of learning/education will not yield tangible results overnight or in the near future - did the current youth-development programs in Spain and Japan get reneged on after a few lousy results? NO! The implementation of football systems/philosophies etc. as nationwide curriculum takes years, up to a decade before the maximum results speak for themselves, so I sincerely hope player development in this country doesn't go back to the relative Dark Ages it started to leave behind a few years ago any time soon.



In the words of that bloke from Broadmeadows on the telly, "What a huge week it's been in football!" After a shaky start against Hong Kong, Australia qualified for the 2013 East Asian Cup after a hard-fought draw with North Korea and thrashings dished out to Guam and Taiwan that brought back memories of our Oceania days when 10+ winning scores were the norm; particularly encouraging were the

performances of several Socceroos young guns/debutants that should warrant consideration for future caps from Holger Osieck. On the domestic-league front the FFA finally greenlights an A-League All-Star Game next year between Manchester United – returning to our shores for the 1st time since 1999 when they took on the Socceroos in Melbourne and Sydney - and an A-League XI. I for one think this is long overdue and to be frank, the opposition to the concept of an All-Star XI due to its rooting in American sporting culture is petty ignorance... let's be honest, if a single A-League club, be it the reigning premier or whoever, had won the privilege of playing Man U there would be opposition fans crying foul! As the saying goes, "you can't please everyone" but I, and am sure many more Oz football fans are already anticipating the prospect of seeing one of world football's key clubs taking on our domestic league's best, right here in our own backyard!

- Alvaro Rodriguez

### **Newcastle Jets Statement Regarding ATO Notice**

The media has alerted the Hunter Sports Group that the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is taking action against the Newcastle Knights and the Newcastle Jets. "We are surprised by the move by the ATO, as we have not received notifica-

tion," a spokesperson for the Hunter Sports Group said. "We advise that any outstanding sum will be paid as soon as possible - well before the reported hearing date on the matter next February."

It is business as usual for both the Knights and the Jets.

There will be no further comment.



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Goal! Weekly - Friday 14th December 2012



### **Boo's World**



### By Mark Boric

The Socceroos returned to their minnow-bashing best to qualify for the Finals of the East Asian Cup. Adam Taggart became the International verson of Andrew Nabbout. Nabbout showed promise in the VPL without actually setting the competition alight, but seized his A-League chance to score regularly for Victory and become a cult hero with the fans. Taggart was even less distinguished as an A-League player before grabbing two goals against

Chinese Taipei when getting his Socceroos opportunity.

Manchester United are coming to Australia next year to play an A-League All Stars team. The FFA is keen to get the All-Star concept running and you wonder how long it is before they rename the A-League the Australian MLS, as that is where they seem to be taking all their cues from.

A fiery Manchester Derby saw a City club associate strike United player Rio Ferdinand with coin in the aftermath of Robin van Persie's winning goal. Wouldn't the FFV Tribunal have a field day with that? They could issue a fine which would even make the oil rich sheikh's searching for cash to pay off.

Clive Palmer has moved on from wreaking havoc in football to trying destroy golf. On the eve of the Australian PGA being played at his Coolum Resort course he has placed dinosaur replicas around the course, as well as advertising for his Titanic II project which involves 61 images painted on the grass.



And then the All Stars will take on the Harlem Globetrotters..

Sounds like he's on the grass

Speaking of rich, or in this case, once-rich, owners it has been reported that lets owner Nathan Tinkler has had his private plane repossessed and also will not be renewing the lease on his private box at Stadium Australia. With Emille Heskey's loss of form, he should be careful he doesn't end up in one of the Patinack Farm dispersal sales

should he continue to become a donkey.

In the weekend's A-League action Victory really missed Adama Traore and Mark Millgan as they conceded four in their loss in Adelaide. Gol Gol got the goal on debut as Heart sunk Perth, with John Aloisi and Jacob Burns getting a little fired up. Central Coast Mariners keep looking good, defeating a Newcastle Jets side who have gone off the



From Skilled Park to Jurassic Park, Clive Palmer seems to be going from one sinking ship to another.

boil. But the biggest result was Sydney FC notching a first win under Frank Farina, 2-1 at Wellington Phoenix. It was away in New Zealand, so he didn't have to drive home and hopefully he was able to enjoy a celebratory glass of champagne.

Back in Europe, Lionel Messi surpassed Gerd Muller's record for goals in a single year, and is now chasing down Tony Lockett, Peter Hudson and Bob Pratt.

**AGAINST ALL ODDS** A-League **Champion 2012/13 Central Coast Mariners 4.00** 4.50 Adelaide United **3.50** 6.00 Melbourne Victory 7.00 5.50 **Wellington Phoenix 29.0** 19.0 **Brisbane Roar 41.0** 11.0 Perth Glory **51.0** 15.0 Newcastle Jets **41.0** 23.0 Melbourne Heart **34.0** 34.0 Sydney FC **29.0** 41.0 West Sydney Wanderers 34.0 41.0

### **BOOTS 'N ALL**



Roger Sleeman

### THE TROUBLE WITH

It is a harrying time for football in the Hunter with the failure of the Jets to make any impression on the A-League this season.

It's unthinkable that an area with such a fantastic football tradition can be in such a precarious position.

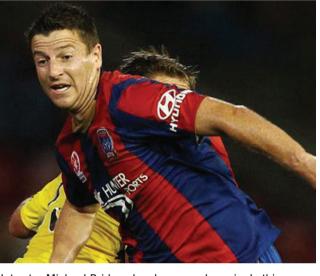
If you examine the list of great local products, Artie Quill, Albert Simmons, Reg Date, the Morrow brothers, Bobby Burgoyne, Dennis Wright, Ronnie Giles, Tom Snedden , John Doyle, Ray Baartz, Col Curran, Joe Senkalski Craig Johnston, Marshall Soper, Graham Jennings and David Lowe, it reads like a Who's Who of Australian football.

Certainly, the responsibility for the lack of outstanding talent emerging can't be blamed solely at the feet of Jets coach, Gary Van Egmond, because local players like, Ben Kantarovski, Taylor Regan, James Pepper, James Virgilli and Connor Chapman have all been given the chance to perform

When Van Egmond coached the club to the A-League championship in 2007/08, he had far greater talent at his disposal but maybe now the A- League is a much higher standard.

at the highest level.

In Ray Baartz, the former mercurial Socceroo, who is the Chairman of the Advisory Board, the Jets



Jets star Michael Bridges has been used sparingly this season, much to the bemusement of many.

have a man with unquestionable quality but the question begs as to whether he has any real input into the team's operation.

My gut feeling is he clearly doesn't and I know for a fact, Baartz like a lot of supporters, would like to see Michael Bridges being utilised in the Jet's plans. In his fifteen minute cameo appearance last Saturday against the Mariners, Bridges contributed more than some of the players who were on the pitch for the

His brilliant run off the shoulder of a defender which was incorrectly ruled offside when he was a good chance to score, and the brilliant pass he made to the left of two defenders for Craig Goodwin to run onto and just push the ball wide of the left post, was enough to suggest he should be playing more regularly.

Certainly, Baartz would also agree that Bridges would be a great foil for Emile Heskey who in the last few matches has been playing far too deep and making little impact

on proceedings.

The Jets were simply outplayed by the Mariners so the time has come for Van Egmond to swallow his pride and listen to Baartz's recommendations.

Two seasons ago, Marshall Soper was assisting the strikers at the Jets under the watchful eye of Branko Culina.

Ironically, Soper was instructed to avoid press exposure but when you're as great as this man how can you prevent the press seeking

Baartz should be given the power to re-employ Soper and also engage the consulting services of his former Socceroo teammate, John Doyle, who has one of the best football minds in the country but is given little recognition despite being responsible for coaching and developing some of our best local products, including Jim Patikas, Joel Griffiths, Robbie Slater, Nick Carle Andrew Durante, and arguably our greatest export next to Craig Johnston, Tim Cahill. Without the intense coaching he

received from Doyle when he returned from trials at Milwall in 1997. Cahill could never have reached the level in the game he

Doyle's latest pearl is a Sutherland junior, Chris Ikonimides, who is currently playing for Atlanta reserves and is predicted by his mentor to reach great heights in the game.

Sadly, Newcastle has deserted its past and moved in a different direction which was emphasised by the removal of one of its greatest sons, David Lowe, the former Socceroo striker, from the role of talent scout early in the season. Furthermore, it is has taken nearly thirty five years for Newcastle to recognise the genius of its former hero, Ken Boden, who is guest of honour in February, 2013 at the thirty five year reunion of the Newcastle KB club's entry to the NSL

Why did Newcastle wait so long to invite him back because this gentle genius should have been demonstrating his skills to young players many years ago in the

ers a very late penalty against the Roar. Newcastle area?

potential.

Dino Kresinger goes down in the box and earns the Wander-

SBS - LIFT YOUR GAME Due to the vast amount of football viewing on Fox Sports and Setanta, it is easy to forget that SBS, the flagbearer and

pioneer of in depth football

coverage in Australia, is still a

The time has now come for foot-

ball in Newcastle to fulfil its true

vital player. However, last Monday night as I watched the World Game I was a bit concerned that the channel had dropped its game somewhat. I'm not sure whether it's a lack of preparation or the participants are not seeing the obvious

In the first half of the Wanderers v Brisbane clash, Ben Halloran penetrated the left side of the box and instead of finishing with his left side, he hit the ball weakly across the goal with the outside of his right foot.

This was totally the wrong option when a Brisbane defender was on his right side so he was obviously obstructed from contacting the full face of the ball.

No comment was made by either of the panelists, Craig Foster or David Zdrilic, on this phase of play which is highly disappointing because young Halloran despite his great speed is technically deficient on his left side. The second case was when Kres-

inger was grabbed by a Brisbane defender outside the box but when he was in the box there was no more contact and the Wanderers striker just fell to the ground. Zdrilic and Foster could not decide conclusively that this should've been a free kick outside the box where the actual infringement took place. There was absolutely no doubt

that this was not a penalty. Of course commentators can't see everything but they should remember viewers are watching the show to hear expert analysis.

### TIPPING - LUCK OR EXPER-

### It's not easy tipping in the A-League and its hard work to maximise your numbers.

Very few people would've picked Sydney to beat Phoenix last week end and it would've taken a brave person to fancy the Wanderers win against the Roar, even allowing for the contentious penalty awarded to the home side.

Of course a good knowledge of the teams and close scrutiny of every match assists greatly in achieving high numbers. All my hard work is paying off

so far with my twenty seven correct predictions for the first ten rounds.

There are former Socceroos and expert journalists who are performing well below expectations and I can only say to them in my humble way; the day you stop learning in this game is the time you have to reappraise your approach.



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# **Mariners Derby Loss Hands Victory Top Spot**

By Daniel Quinn

In the latest round of the NYL the Melbourne Victory regained top spot in the NYL as the Central Coast fell to the Jets and the Melbourne Heart continued their fine recent form.

The round kicked-off on Saturday as Adelaide United thumped Perth Glory 6-2 at Burton Park.

The Glory took an early lead as Ndumba Makeche tapped in after a goal mouth scramble.

But Perth didn't hold their lead for long as Awer Mabil simply finished from Liam Wooding's cutback, before Perth were reduced to ten after a deliberate handball on the goal line enabled Sergio van Dijk to slot from the spot.

On 35 minutes Wooding emphatically finished from the edge of the area from an Antony Golec cutback, before Jacob Melling converted from the spot after Daniel Bowles was tripped in the box. Just after the break van Dijk was

found at the back post before the Dutchman blasted the fifth. Makeche completed his brace with twenty minutes left as the pacey striker round Reds 'keeper John Hall before slotting into the bottom

The scoring wasn't over, however, as Thomas Briscoe capped off the Victory for Adelaide with the sixth. Sydney FC and the Western Sydney Wanderers competed the first Sydney Youth Derby on Saturday evening where Sydney were victorious 3-0.

Daniel Petkovski got the scoring under way on 15 minutes sweeping home after the Wanderers failed to clear

Less than ten minutes later Alec Urosevski doubled the visitors' advantage beating a couple defenders before scoring with a lovely finish. Urosevski then put Western Sydney to bed with his second heading in at the back post from great build up



Adrian Zahra on the ball for Perth Glory. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

play by Nikola Taneski. The Newcastle Jets defeated local rivals and the table topping Central Coast Mariners 4-3 in a thrilling encounter at Hunter Stadium on

Saturday evening. The Jets got off to a great start with Chris Grossman firing in from a rebound just after nine minutes, before Andrew Hoole weaved his way into the box and sneaked an effort into the bottom corner. Just after the half-hour Kale Bradbery fired in the third for the hosts from an acute angle, but the Mariners responded four minutes later with their first as Patrick Dixon rounded Jet's keeper Aleks

Vrteski before finishing. The scoring in the first-half wasn't over, though, as Bradbery neatly finished his second five minutes

before the break.

Central Coast started the secondhalf brightly and were rewarded with Michael Neill making it 4-2 from the edge of the box, before Tomislav Cirjak superbly curled a late free-kick into the net. The Melbourne Victory eased past the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) 4-0 at SS Anderson Reserve, Port Melbourne on Sunday after-

The Victory raced to a three goal



lift to boot. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

lead just after 21 minutes as Chris Cristaldo nicely finished, before Connor Pain scored twice inside two minutes poking home a low cross, before wonderfully beating three defenders and slotting past AIS 'keeper Andre Jannese. Overage midfielder Spase Dilevski then thumped a Cristaldo back-heel early in the second-half, before Luke O'Dea added the fifth with the last kick of the game converting

The Melbourne Heart edged the Brisbane Roar 3-2 at Goodwin Park on Sunday partly thanks to a Joshua Groenewald brace

Dylan Murnane's nice cross from

the left.

Irish defender Steven Gray opened the scoring with an emphatic header on just 13 minutes, before Groenewald tapped home his first of the afternoon. On 26 minutes Groenewald com-

pleted his brace as the Heart Skipper punished a poor Roar defensive pass and fired past Roar 'keeper Fraser Chalmers. Brisbane came out after the break

as a much better side with Nick Fitzgerald grabbing one back finishing off a nice slick team move. In stoppage-time Anthony Proia brilliantly made the score line 3-2 with a free-kick from the edge of the area.

### **Round 8 Results**

Brisbane Roar 2 (Nick Fitzgerald 55, Anthony Proia 90+4)

Melbourne Heart 3 (Steve Gray 13,

Melbourne Victory 5 (Cristaldo 14, Pain 19, 21, Dilevski 52, O'Dea 90+4) Australian Institute of Sport 0

Western Sydney Wanderers 0 Sydney FC 3 (Petrovski 15', Urosevski 26', 70')

Adelaide United 6 (Mabil 8, van Dijk 20, 55, Wooding 35, Melling 45, Briscoe 85) Perth Glory 2 (Makeche 1, 70)

Newcastle Jets 4 (Grossman '9, Hoole '20, Bradbery '31, '40) Central Coast Mariners 3 (Dixon '35, Neill '51, Cirjak '86)

### **NYL Standings**

### **Round 9 Fixtures**

Saturday 15 December Adelaide United v Newcastle Jets Burton Park KO 11:00 AM

Saturday 15 December Perth Glory v Western Sydney Intiga Stadium KO 1:30 PM

Saturday 15 December

**CC Mariners v Melbourne Heart** Centre of Excellence, Tuggerah KO Sunday 16 December

Melbourne Victory v Brisbane Roar Anderson Res, Port Melb KO 3 PM

Sunday 16 Decembe Sydney FC v AIS **TBA KO 3:00 PM** All KO times ae AEDT

### W-League Wrap

www.goalweekly.com



# Roar Comeback Takes All The Glory

By FFA

The Westfield W-League ladder remains congested after Round 8 with another win for Canberra United ensuring six teams remain in contention for the finals.

Perth Glory remain at the summit two points clear of five teams separated by a single point, with the trio of Sydney FC, Brisbane Roar and Canberra United all sharing second.

The Glory were denied the chance to skip clear at the top as a typically resilient Brisbane Roar came back from two goals down at the interval to draw 2-2.

Katrina Gorry equalised with four minutes remaining to earn a crucial point, with the Brisbane humidity ensuring the Glory did it tough in what was their third match inside seven days.

There was also a stalemate in Melbourne as the Victory and Sydney FC continued their evergrowing rivalry.

Young gun Caitlin Foord put the Sky Blues ahead early on, only for Maika Ruyter-Hooley to soon equalise.

A high quality match continued to play out in extreme heat, although there was to be no winner. Champions Canberra United one

again showed their mettle with a second hard-fought one-goal victory of the week.

After edging out leaders Perth Glory 2-1 on Wednesday, United again found a visit to their alternate home venue at Deakin to be fruitful.

The two teams were separated only by a superb Nicole Sykes first-half winner, her maiden



Steph Catley (Victory) is forced to do some hurdling as Sydney keeper Shamiran Khamis claims the ball. Elizabeth Ralston follows up. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Westfield W-League goal.

Despite chances at both ends, Newcastle Jets, hamstrung by the dismissal of star midfielder Emily Van Egmond for a second cautionable offence, could find no wav back.

Western Sydney Wanderers were rarely troubled in overpowering bottom side Adelaide United hitting four unanswered goals.

Louise Fors and Sarah Walsh hit the back of the net inside the opening ten minutes with Servet Uzunlar extending the advantage, before Fors bagged her second after the hour mark.

It was the biggest win in the club's short life, and leaves them sitting alongside Melbourne Victory, a point off second.



Katrina Gorry (Roar) and Elisa D'Ovidio compete for the ball. Photo: KEIGH EIGELAND



Roar celebrate their Katrina Gorry's late equaliser. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND

### **Round 8 Results**

Melbourne Victory 1 (Ruyter-Hooley 27) Sydney FC 1 (Foord 4)

Canberra United 1 (Nicole Sykes 34') Newcastle Jets 0

Western Sydney Wanderers 4 (Louise Fors 6', 67', Sarah Walsh 8', Servet Uzunlar 40') Adelaide United 0

Western Sydney Wanderers 4 (Louise Fors 6', 67', Sarah Walsh 8', Servet Adelaide United 0

Brisbane Roar 2 (Tameka Butt 61, Katrina Perth Glory 2 (Kathryn Gill 34, Marianna

### W-League Standings

8 4 2 2 18 13 5 14 2 Sydney FC 3 Canberra United 8 4 2 2 15 10 5 14 4 Brisbane Roar 5 Melbourne Victory 8 4 1 3 14 8 6 13 6 WS Wanderers 8 4 1 3 15 10 5 13 8 Adelaide United 8 1 0 7 6 27 -21 3

### **Round 9 Fixtures**

Sat 15 Dec KO 2:00pm Canberra United Vs Melbourne Victory McKellar Park, Canberra

Sat 15 Dec KO 4:00pm **Burton Park** 

Sat 15 Dec KO 5:00pm Sydney FC Vs Perth Glory Allianz Stadium

Western Sydney Wanderers FC Vs Bris-Campbelltown Stadium

All KO times ae AEDT

Goal! Weekly - Friday 14th December 2012

Adelaide United Vs Newcastle Jets

Sun 16 Dec KO 3:00pm

# Couch

Potato



SBS ONE Sunday December 16th 10:30 am Football Asia UEFA Champions 11:00 am League

Magazine

Monday December 17th 11:00 pm The World Game

**SBS TWO** Monday December 17th The World Game 9:30 pm

02:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show 03:00 am Arsenal TV 08:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights

Saturday 15th Dec 05:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show

Sunday 16th Dec

03:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights 12:30 pm The Serie A Highlights Show

Tuesday 18th Dec

### SETANTA SPORTS

FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER **Bundesliga Round 17 Preview Show** 7:00pm 1st Airing NexLions Cup Semi-Final Man Utd v Sporting Lisbon 9:00pm LIVE NexLions Cup Semi-Final Liverpool v Singapore 11:15pm LIVE

SATURDAY 15TH DECEMBER Bundesliga Round 17 Bayern v Monchengladbach 6:25am LIVE Capital One Cup Quarter-Final Highlights 7:00pm 1st Airing Copa Sudamericana Final 2nd Leg Highlights 7:30pm 1st Airing Scottish Division 3 Round 15 Montrose v Rangers 11:25pm LIVE

SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER nPower Championship Round 22 Blackpool v Blackburn 1:55am LIVE Bundesliga Round 17 Schalke v Freiburg 4:25am LIVE Bundesliga Round 17 Leverkusen v Hamburg 8:30am 1st Airing nPower Championship Round 22 Barnsley v Sheff Weds 12:10pm 1st

NexLions Cup 3rd Place Playoff Teams TBC 7:30pm LIVE **NexLions Cup Final Teams TBC** 9:45pm LIVE

**MONDAY 17TH DECEMBER** Bundesliga Round 17 Hoffenheim v Dortmund 4:00am 1st Airing Eredivisie Round 17 NEC v PSV 6:10am 1st Airing Bundesliga Round 17 Werder Bremen v Nuremburg 9:50am 1st Airing Eredivisie Round 17 Willem II v Ajax 11:40am 1st Airing SPL Round 18 Dundee Utd v Inverness 1:30pm 1st Airing **Bundesliga Round 17 Highlights** 7:00pm 1st Airing

TUESDAY 18TH DECEMBER Eredivisie Round 17 Twente v Heracles 6:20am 1st Airing nPower Championship Round 22 Highlights 7:00pm 1st Airing SPL Round 18 Highlights 7:30pm 1st Airing

**Eredivisie Round 17 Highlights** 8:00pm 1st Airing

THURSDAY 20TH DECEMBER Capital One Cup Quarter-Final Leeds v Chelsea 6:40am LIVE

FRIDAY 21ST DECEMBER Bundesliga Mid-Season Review 7:00pm

The Future of

Melbourne Dodgeball

18

Friday 14th Dec

06:00 am Arsenal TV

Monday 17th Dec

03:00 am Arsenal TV Thursday 20th Dec

02:00 am Magic Of The FA Cup 03:00 am Bundesliga 05:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights



**ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE** Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-offs.

**English Premier League** Sat Dec 15 Newcastle v Manchester City 11.38 pm Fox 1 Sun Dec 16 Man Utd v Sunderland 1.53 am Fox 1 Sun Dec 16 Norwich v Wigan 1.53 am Viewers Choice Sun Dec 16 QPR v Fulham 1.53 am Viewers Choice Sun Dec 16 Stoke v Everton 1.53 am Viewers Choice Sun Dec 16 Liverpool v Aston Villa 1.53 am Fox 2 Mon Dec 17 Tottenham v Swansea 12.23 am Fox 1 Mon Dec 17 West Brom v West Ham Fox 1 2.53 am Tue Dec 18 Reading v Arsenal

Hyundai A-League All games LIVE

6.53 am

Fri Dec 14 Central Coast v Mel Heart 7.30 pm Fox 1 Fri Dec 14 Perth v Newcastle 9.45 pm Fox 1 Sat Dec 15 Victory v Brisbane 5.30 pm Fox 1 Sat Dec 15 Sydney v Western Sydney 7.45 pm Fox 1 Sun Dec 16 Adelaide v Wellington

Fox 1

Fox 1

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8.30 pm

# Round 11: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT

Mariners (7) Heart (1) Draw (0) - Glory (7) Jets (0) Draw (1) - Victory (5) Roar (0) Draw (3) - Sydney FC (3) Wanderers (0) Draw (5) - Adelaide (8) Phoenix (0) Draw (3)

CILAURO

Mariners Glory Victory Draw Adelaide Last week: 1



CRAIG MACKENZIE

Mariners Glory Victory Draw Adelaide

Last week: 2

EDDIE KRNCEVIC

> Glory Draw Draw Adelaide

Last week: 1

JOHN

**Mariners** 

Glory

Draw

Draw

Adelaide

Last week: 3

DOYLE

PETER KATHOLOS

> Mariners Glory Victory Sydney FC Adelaide

Last week: 2



KISS OF DEATH

Mariners Draw Draw Sydney Adelaide

Last week: 1

ROGER **ANDY** SLEEMAN

Mariners Glory Victory Draw Adelaide

Last week: 3



HARPER Heart Glory

Victory Sydney Adelaide

Last week: 1

# Carrusca's class starting to show

By Nic Kerber

Adelaide United FC's Argentinean playmaker Marcelo Carrusca admits he is beginning to find his feet in his new surroundings, and this could correlate to the skill he is starting to display on the field as evidenced by his standout performance in the win over Melbourne Victory last Friday

The former Argentinean Under 20 representative had a hand in three of United's four goals against the Victory as he provided the assists for two either side of a memorable debut Hyundai A-League goal he scored for the other. Speaking about Carrusca's impact against Melbourne, Reds Coach John Kosmina believes the big stage brought out the best in the Argentinean and provided no better time for him to announce himself as one of the Hyundai A-League's quality creative mid-

"I think he had a point to prove," Kosmina said of Carrusca. "It was a big occasion and big players stand up in big games, and for him to come back after missing last week against the Central Coast Mariners and play like he did and demonstrate the sort of quality that he did tells you what he's like as a footballer, and I think he's still got a lot of gas left in the tank." Using team mate Cassio to translate, Carrusca said he was pleased to score his first goal in an Adelaide United shirt but what delighted him more was the result and the way the team played

against Melbourne. "I'm very happy with the goal but especially with the team performance and the win," Carrusca

Carrusca's arrival to Australia from his homeland did not have the best of beginnings as he was struck down with a calf injury in



Marcelo Carrusca picks up the Man of the Match award after a sterling performance against Melbourne Victory last Friday night. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

which led to him being left out of the Reds' squad for the AFC Champions League Knockout Stage.

However, from the time he came off the bench in United's Hyundai A-League season opener, one gets the sense Carrusca has gradually been building up to prove what he can do, and it is starting to show. Playing at the Reds is just the second time the 29 year old has played at a club outside of his home continent, the other instance being for Turkish club Galatasaray. With his wife and young son with him in Adelaide, Carrusca says he is becoming more at home by the day, with his biggest battle being the language

"I'm getting used to it and feel better with every day I go on the pitch for training and to play," Carrusca said.

"My family has started getting adapted to Adelaide. I enjoy the lifestyle, the only problem is the English but I've started having some lessons and that will make

In helping him make the transition, Carrusca also paid credit to Reds' left back was a good player, Carrusca's English required no need for any translation.

"He (Cassio) is a very good

player, a very good man," Carrusca said. "He always helps me with the

translating, when Kossie wants to speak with me, and I want to say thank you very much to him for everything." Looking ahead to hosting the

Wellington Phoenix on Sunday, Carrusca is confident that the Reds' well publicised squad depth will ensure there is no let down after the high of last Friday night's victory.

"We have a very good group, there's a healthy competition between everyone, there are a lot of good players and it's good for the club and the club is well represented by the players," Carrusca said. From both Carrusca and Kos-

mina's comments, it sounds like the Argentine's best is still yet to

Tickets for Sunday's game at Hindmarsh Stadium are available through Ticketek.

### FFV VPL Fixtures Released

The Victorian Premier League (VPL) fixtures for 2013 have been released during the week. The opening round kicks-off

on Friday 5 April 2013 with two matches before the round continues on Saturday and Sunday. Port Melbourne mark their return to the top tier of Victorian football, hosting Hume City at SS Anderson Reserve on Friday while fellow promoted side Pascoe Vale travel to Somers Street on Sunday to ta...ke on the might of Melbourne Knights. Current Champions and winners of the 2012 Treble Dandenong Thunder will start their title defence with the short trip to Kingston Heath Soccer Club

to face Southern Stars. A juicy encounter waits for them in Round Two where they will face Bentleigh Greens who have signed their former star player Luke Sherbon.

Round One Bentleigh Greens v Richmond Eagles Kingston Heath

Friday 5th April KO 8.30PM Port Melbourne v Hume City Anderson Reserve Fri 5 April KO 8.30PM

Southern Stars v Dandenong

Green Gull v South Mellbourne

Green Gully Reserve Sat 6th April KO 3PM

Thunder Kingston Heath Sat 6th April KO 5PM

Northcote City v Oakleigh **Cannons** John Cain Sun 7th April KO 3PM

Melbourne Knights v Pascoe Knights Stadium

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Goal! Weekly - Friday 14th December 2012

# When A Dream Suddenly Turns Into A Nightmare

Believe it or not, the previous week marked the passing anniversary of THAT 1997 World Cup qualifier between Australia and Iran. Ashley Reid from SoccerooReal. com relives the fateful night that unfolded at the MCG

Fifteen vears on, and Australia is on the brink of playing in its third World Cup. It's a stark contrast to the days of Oceania when Australia's World Cup prospects were almost so forlorn that most fans did not dare dream.

After emerging as Oceania's winners, Australia would be shunted to all parts of the globe and made to play sudden-death playoffs against battle-hardened losers from other confederations as our first and final hope of qualifying - and that was typically after an earlier, slightly less daunting playoff. For the 1998 World Cup, this treacherous path seemed not so bad when Australia was finally given its wish of going through Asia by needing to beat Asian's 4th best team. Comparing that to Scotland, Israel then Colombia and Canada then Argentina, the dreaming could really start.

As it is now known, that seemingly easier path proved a fool's gold. It was not the challenge of Iran that undid Australia, it was the nature of the fixture. Football's magic is because it's so uncertain, and in a sudden-death game, that uncertainty can be cataclysmic. Add to that FIFA's absurd away-goals rule that magnifies the impact of a goal far beyond its norm and inhibits a home team from attacking too much, then you have even greater recipe for chaos

The Iran Game proved a watershed moment for the sport. With such a strong spectre of qualifying, the mainstream media was heavily focused. The sport had seen nothing like it and appeared to really come of age. More importantly, it would magic that only this sport can provide. Little were to learn that that magic cuts both ways, leaving Australia disappointed, and ironically making qualification through Asia and the playoffs after two further attempts, far more appreciated. Pivotally for the SoccerooRealm.com website, it was its birth. So much so one night. Now there'll be six. Those parts to the Iran Game can still be viewed in the "Action" section in their exact original wording. They've never be revisited for corrections, punctuation and even writing style. In fifteen years, so much as changed there too.

The intent of the Socceroo Realm was only ever for personal recount, even for carthisis and self-healing. Longer term, it would serve primarily as a journal and for enjoyment of writing. It evolved to providing general news, until now that is solely analysis and opinion. The early and mid-2000s was its peak in terms of traffic and communication, until the proliferation of mainstream websites like theworldgame, Fox Sports, newspapers and even A-League clubs - all with so many pages that have seen the Socceroo Realm hammered from its permanent top 10 in Google and Alta Vista (of the time) in searches for "Socceroos". A search just now sees it nowhere on the first 10 pages. Being slow to get onto twitter and cebook hasn't helped. Still, a dedicated readership, and that's forever appreciated.

That's the Socceroo Realm, now to the Iran Game. For something different I'll present a chronological list of memories that are still vivid and often recounted either in whimsical thinking or discussing with friends.

\* When first asked about the match at the MCG, Robbie Slater called it "a joke". The main concern was the cricket pitch; there were no drop-in pitches back then as now. Many players, and fans, had that concern. A minor concern was actually get-



The Socceroos of 1997 with Terry 'El Tel' Venables at the helm.

was very much a minor sport. Did Soccer Australia exaggerate the potential? Prices were reasonable at \$40, \$60 and \$80-100 for bronze, silver and gold, respectively.

\* With preparations under way and cricket pitch getting plenty of water, Paul Trimboli - as a local Socceroo - gave it a thumbs up in a TV news Ticket purchase. A friend and

I went to Chadstone Shopping Centre to purchase them. We were happy with silver and picked out seats in something like Q61. It was next to the penalty box to the city end, in the Southern Stand.

\* Australia were to play either Iran or Japan and neither of those teams relished that chance. They played a cut-throat play-off in Malaysia (Johor Bahru to be precise) that Japan eventually won 3-2 in extra time. Australia was straight off to

\* Before the identity of the fourthplaced Asian team was known, it had already been announced that Australia would play at home last. This was greeted as a great advantage. First, the axiom that knowing the outcome required, the team could play accordingly and be more in control of achieving the result. Second, and more importantly, was the travel. While Japan appeared the lesser challenge and more comfortable logistically, it was now seen as more desirable to play Iran. They were now forced to fly all the way back to Iran, play a match, then fly to Australia. Surely fatigue would be a big problem. They had also crumbled in their group stage when, as group leaders, lost two and drew one of their last three games. Then lost to Japan in the play-off. They appeared demora-

\* The first leg in Teheran didn't go as hoped. Deep down the consensus that this was Australia's big chance and that they'd be too superior was initially validated when Harry Kewell scored early. From then on, it was an unnerving struggle. In fact, Iran quite easily could have won and seemed energised and reassured by returning straight to the comfort of home. Would it have been better that they came to Melbourne first and been hammered? Two friends visited my house to watch. They had never met before.

\* With the squad now in Melbourne, all players gave approval to the MCG field, several being surprised it was good, including Slater.

\* To confirm the huge mainstream interest in this game, at a team photograph, one of the players remarked "ooh, sponsors!". It might have been a Toyota sign resting in front of them.

\* With Australia only needing nil-nil to qualify, confidence was high. Knowing this, would the team play accordingly? The consensus seemed not to play for the draw, especially when at home. Personally, I felt reality would set int, and the result would be eeked out, either

\* Game day was spent at home and

imagining the prospect of qualifying for an actual World Cup. Wow. Some of the trepidation from the game in Iran had alleviated. The feeling was that Australia really had no excuse. I had my Socceroos shirt on, circa 1993 that Australia wore against Canada and Argentina, being the moment the sport captured me.

\* I met friends at the ground almost 2 hours prior, the two who watched the first leg, and some friends of each of those who were all friends of mine. What a day for such a group of 6 to first form a bond.

The atmosphere in the ground at this early stage was amazing. A sizeable group of Iranian fans were there trying to compete with Australian fans. Intermittently, the Australians would have enough and totally drown out the Iranians. Then the vibrant normality would restore.

As someone that doesn't much like the national anthem. Jane Scali gave an amazing rendition. To this day, it's the best ever. Whether it was the crowd and the occasion that helped, it also affected her as there was a distinct energy flow between crowd and singer that just intensified as the anthem progressed. One friend, of Greek origin, sang in full gusto. I didn't bother, preferring to soak in the occasion.

Early stages of the game were marked by Robbie Slater steaming down the wing, Aurelio Vidmar missing chances, Craig Moore missing a great chance from a corner, Ned Zelic shooting from range, and an Iranian playing tripping over the ball. It all seemed in control. Iran only providing one moment of anxiety, and that foray on goal was easily snuffed.

Finally, the goal came, and it was Harry Kewell. It took some time to confirm this given the distance from goal and the general scramble. All I saw was Alex Tobin rush in and presumed he scored. The crowd went nuts as Tobin carried the ball back above his head. It was more a relief than anything.

\* At half time one of the friends that watched the first leg asked about the match, and I said "Iran won't score". He said, "So we're through". I said "No". That's obviously so illogical given that Australia was leading the tie. The answer reflected the huge trepidation still

The most poignant analysis in discussion about the game at half time was that if Australia scores again, they must score another quickly Because given the away-goals rule after the 1-1 result in Tehran, the second goal is largely meaningless Iran already needed to score 2 goals at 1-0 down. At 2-0 down, they still only needed 2 goals. Only their urgency would change.

Early in the second half, Aurelio Vidmar finally scores his goal, a tap-in after a header by Craig Foster that rebounded off the crossbar. During this scrimmage, a the other friend that watched the first leg grabbed my hand in support! As the crowd went nuts, I just stayed calm and yelled out "We need one more, we need one more".

\* Next thing you know, there's a



Leading 2-0 and fans were already making plans for Paris.

stoppage after an idiot invades the pitch and pulls part of the goal-net down. I felt this was good because it gave the team a chance to relax and consider the match situation after the goal. The job was by no means done. Johnny Warren also said as much in the TV telecast. By the end of the game, and media the next day, that sentiment had swung that most pundits began to blame the invader. Nonsense.

Iran noticeably lifted their urgency. A few moments of danger seemed to be snuffed easily, providing some comfort. Of discomfort, Australia were tiring and looking unlikely to add to their score.

\* Iran's first goal was only mildly discomforting, mostly because it came from a scrimmage so it seemed they got lucky. We just knew now that the match would not

Iran's second goal will live long. First, there were nuggets in defence with their arms raised trying to claim offside. Second, Mark Bosnich was easily beaten. It all happened so quickly. Khodadad Azizi ran off towards the Iranian supporters. I might have said "oh shit". Mostly I remained calm knowing that there was plenty of time left - at least 15 minutes.

As time passed, it never really looked likely. Coach Terry Venables seemed not to be making any changes, or making strange ones. Like, why was it Tony Vidmar on for Steve Horvat? Ernie Tapai was also waiting.

\* Graham Arnold came on late and was passionate in trying to give the team a gee-up. Did he recognise their forlorn attitude? Arnold had the best chance, a scurried shot through a crowd of players.

\* Final whistle and Stan Lazaridis is on the ground. He'd be there for at least 10 minutes before security would remove him.

\* Queen's "We are the champions" rang around the ground. For such a triumphal song, it's one that forever will mean sad times.

\* I finally sat down, raised knees onto the seat in front, buried my head in them, cried. After about 5 minutes, the same friend that grabbed by hand, patted me on the head to console me. Not long after \* We ended up a pool house in Port

that we left. We left like zombies. It was so surreal. Few people spoke.

Melbourne where the friend with whom I was discussing at half-time got so trashed that he was locked in the toilet for ages puking up. I didn't get too carried away. \* That night I cried before bed.

In the morning, one more time. I called in sick for work, too emotionally wrecked. \* On the news that morning was

part of the press conference. Soccer Australia chief David Hill said Australia "gave it one hell of a lick", and words tantamount to that anyone not converted to the sport by the drama that night never will. \* Terry Venables blamed the static

defence, that he always instructs the players to be moving forward or back. It seemed Tobin and Horvat were doing that, except not in unison, and in opposite directions to one another.

A few weeks later, a cricket match is on TV, and still eerily remained a hint of the centre circle across the middle of the pitch. That was the last tangible connection to this day.

Only one. Australia never played Iran again, even now that they are in Asia. Through Asian Cup qualifiers, Asian Cup, the 2006 World Cup and four World Cup qualifying pools, Australia has avoided Iran. Not even an international friendly could be fashioned. With only Kewell remaining from the field players that day, the time for a "rematch" has long passed.

### What really went wrong?

Isolating it to events that can be controlled, two grave errors:

1) Terry Venables replaced Milan sweeper for this tie. The result of which saw all three of Iran's goals caused by defensive calamity, mostly at the hands at Horvat. While Tobin was the nugget trying to run Iran offside, he should never have been in such authority. It was Ivanovic's job and Horvat was out of position. Aurelio Vidmar also said, in the SBS "After The Mourning After" documentary, that Australia would have qualified if Ivanovic was playing. To make matters worse, Horvat was one of many players starting that were returning from injury or not playing with their clubs. Aurelio was another, hence his rust in front of goal, and Ned

A baby-faced Harry Kewell can't believe what just happened. Zelic might have been another. You can get away with that further up the field, especially if lacking other options. You can't in defence.

> 2) Dreadful tactics. Australia was already losing impetus to score the third goal, so the decision much earlier should have made to close the game down. Venables only began making the move at 2-1, and before Tony Vidmar could be brought on, it was 2-2. Bizarrely, Vidmar still came on when strikers were needed.

### Legacy

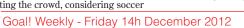
Two-nil ahead suddenly became a dangerous score. It's nonsense because in most games if a team reaches 2-2, it's a draw, or it might go to extra time and then a shootout. In this game, it was a win, because the second goal that Australia scored was meaningless. So 2-0 is only a dangerous score for a home-team in a two-leg playoff that finished 1-1 in the first leg. Since the Iran Game, Australia has not played such a dangerous game

Three years after the Iran Game, SBS showed a documentary called "After The Mourning After". It was a retrospective of the match, mostly through interviews with players. The two most notable quotes were Robbie Slater seeing "some nugget" with his hands up when describing Iran's second goal and seeing "some nugget", and Craig Foster admitting at 2-0 that his mind wandered and was dreaming of France. That nugget was Alex Tobin. Ironic that Fox Sports' A-League Player of the Year award is called The Alex Tobin Medal. Should it be the Nugget Award? "Nugget" has entered the parlance of myself and friends when describing erroneous defending. "Doing a Foster" has not entered the parlance for teams that concede 2 goal leads and lose through poor concentration. Not vet, anyway.

The biggest legacy, of course, is "The Iran Game". It's almost a trademark now, and very much part of the Australian lexicon.

### What happened next?

Australia somehow picked themselves up to perform well at the Confederations Cup held in Saudi Arabia the following month. It was supposed to be the start of their World Cup preparations but they beat Mexico and drew with Brazil in the group stage and then downed Uruguay in the semi-final, A 6-0 thrashing a hands of the Brazilians - hat-tricks from Ronaldo and Romario - was a disappointing end to a year that was so close to being great. The team missed out on the 2002 World Cup in a play-off to Uruguay but got their revenge on the South Americans in 2005 to qualify for Germany. Then came that game against Japan. Iran, meanwhile, eventually returned home and had an enjoyable time in France. famously defeating the United States 2-1. The team fell at the first hurdle but had to wait until 2006 to return to the World Cup after missing out on 2002 in traumatic circumstances after a defeat in Bahrain. - Ed.



### goal Weekl

# Andrew Zinni: Fast Paced Clinical Finisher

**Blast From The Past** 



By Roy Hay

Andrea (Andrew) Zinni was an exciting attacker for the Socceroos, Victoria Brunswick Juventus and Preston Makedonia in the National Soccer League in the 1980s and 1990s. He was born on 6 March 1965 and came up through the youth teams at Brunswick Juventus. Tony Boggi gave him his first senior start in 1982 against Albion Rovers in May and he scored two goals in his second full game against Frankston in a threenil win at Olympic Park. Boggi nursed the youngster through the rest of that year mainly as a substitute when he could use his pace when the heat had gone out of the game. Zinni was among a precocious group at Juventus that included Paul Wade, Fabio Incantalupo and Micky

Petersen. In 1984 Juventus joined the National Soccer League with Zinni a regular in the team. The following year Juventus finished second to South Melbourne Hellas in the Southern Conference of the NSL but went on to win the national championship beating Sydney City Hakoah two-nil in the two-leg Grand Final. Zinni missed those games, but scored in the qualifying final and contributed throughout the season under coach John Margaritis.

Tim White called Zinni up for Victoria against Northern New South Wales in April 1984 but according to John Punshon's data Victoria did not play another game until 1988, when Zinni was also selected against Dinamo Zagreb. In 1989 he played for Victoria against PAOK from Greece. (Some later Victorian line-ups are incomplete). Andrew Zinni received his first Australian cap from Frank Arok in 1986 against New Zealand and scored his first international goal against the All Whites in his second match four minutes after coming on as a 70th minute substitute. In 1990 he helped the Socceroos win the Independence Cup in Indonesia, scoring a hattrick against Indonesia's B team along the way. There is a hilarious description of the final in Paul Wade's autobiography, where he recounts receiving the prize money for the tournament (\$25,000US in hundred dollar bills) in an envelope after the match. The honest Wade gave the money to Vito Cilauro and the players never received any of it as a bonus! Zinni went on to receive ten full caps for Australia scoring three goals and played in a total of 17 matches for his country with

In 1986 Juventus finished on top of the Southern Conference and Andrew Zinni was top scorer in the league with eleven goals. Juventus went out in the Preliminary final to JUST. From then on Juventus went downhill and was relegated at the end of the 1988 season. In six years with the club Zinni played 138 games and scored 44 goals. Zinni transferred to Preston Makedonia and helped his new team reach the play-offs in fifth position, but Melbourne Croatia ended his season in the Elimination final. He continued with Preston racking up 111 games and 20 goals until



Andrew Zinni celebrates one of his hat-trick of goals for Brunswick-Juventus against South Melbourne in Rd 22 of NSL 1986 Peter Laumets is not happy his defenfers. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON





Andrew Zinni (left) gets his shot away despite the attentions of Wally Savor. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

they too were relegated at the end of the 1992–93 season.

After a short stint with Bulleen in the Victorian Premier League, Andrew Zinni returned to Brunswick for 1993–94 season playing in 22 games and scoring five times. Rebadged as Melbourne Zebras in 1994–95

the club struggled through the season as Zinni added a further 19 games and seven goals to his impressive record. But it was not enough to save the Zebras from relegation and Zinni continued in 1996 with the club in the VPL under Kenny Murphy. His talent and commitment

showed as he scored 14 goals in his 16 games for the club, including a hat-trick in a four-nil defeat of Box Hill Inter in June.

Andrew Zinni was a spotless room-mate according to Paul Wade and he was always immaculately turned out as a player. He took his game seriously and prepared accordingly. He and Ernie Tapai were the fastest attackers of their generation for Victoria and Australia and he leaves a legacy as one of the best players of his era. He is still contributing to the game, most recently as guest speaker at the FFV President's lunch.

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FUTSAL











# V-LEAGUE Premiership

Round

# **Pascoe Vale In Derby Delight**

What a weekend of Futsal, Friday night saw matches played on Friday night with the pick of the games the Derby between Leaders Pascoe Vale FC and Vic Vipers. And Sunday hosted a number of tight matches with the highlight of Fitzroy finally holding on to a lead to taste Victory.

### Round 6 Ashburton continue great start to the season

Ashburton FC continue to push the leaders as Gui Costa's man are playing a nice brand of futsal and more importantly its producing results. FC Prahran are hot and cold at the minute and a capable of a top 4 finish if they can fine some form.

Ashburton FC 4 (B. Gearboc, A. Arreggin, G. McHeileh, A. Farina) def. FC Prahran 2 (T. Coulibaly, C. Hol-

### Metro turn on the style as they defeat Brunswick

Metropolitan FC is scoring for fun at the minute and round 6 was no different. Brunswick tried to match the red hot Metro but they were unable to contain the Redzepovic brothers. If Metro continue this run of form they were push for the premiership. Metropolitan FC 11 (D. Redzepovic 3, A. Redzepovic 3, E. Buzo 2, H. Ikanovic, J. Avdic, T. Grgic) def. CF Brunswick 4 (N. Yao, D. Duva, R. Filipovic, J. Julardzija (OG)

### Pascoe Vale FC edge rival Vipers in a Thriller

A massive crowd was on had to view the Clasico as it has been dubbed. More spice was added to the derby with Vipers including Western Australian players Diego Garcia, Victor Brauner, Ciro Rinaldi. It was an even match and it took a late Pascoe Vale set piece was put away by captain Andre Caro to extend Pascoe Vales lead at the top of the table.

Pascoe Vale FC 4 (E. Simsek 2, A. Caro 2) def. Vic Vipers FC 3 (A. Cooper, Jas. Barrientos, V. Brauner)

### Hume takes the points over Bal-

Hume proved too strong for an out of sorts Balwyn, Anthony Ramzy was the star for Hume with a Hat-trick and was well supported by teammate Vadim Mazurskiy. Balwyn were not the same team of recent weeks and hopefully they can bounce back next round.

Hume FC 9 (A.Ramzy 3, V.Mazurskiy N.Sahin, S.Cicek, M.Parlak, (Frano Saric OG) def. FC Balwyn 2 (T.Imeri, I.Filipovic)



Pascoe Vale captain Andre Caro (L) and Joao Da Silva celebrate the winning goal against Vic Vipers. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS



Vic Vipers import Ciro Rinaldi celebrates his first goal in the Nike V-League against Brighton FC. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

### Moreland leave it late against **Brighton**

Moreland have had a great start to the season but were made to work hard for the win against bottom placed Brighton. Osman Kose goal late on for Moreland ensured they got the points and continue to keep touch with the leaders. Brighton is continuing and a win is just around the corner for them, hopefully it comes before the Christmas break. Moreland FC 5 (T.Sumbul 2, S.Murat, O.Kose, (T.Bayrakli OG) Brighton FC 4 (T.Bayrakli 2, M.Guillou, H.Shamon)

### Essendon too good for Fitzroy

In a match that saw both teams go goal for goal it was Essendon who got the spoils, with Joaquin Jiminez coming back to haunt his old club scoring a hat-trick. Fitzroy have lost yet another close game and their season could be very different had they converted these close games

FC Essendon 6 (J.Jiminez 3, A.Cobo, G.Canbeco, Alijandro)

Fitzroy FC 5 (R.Covarrubias 2, M.Dixon, M Sessay, A.Hammer)

### Morland overcome Balwyn to take victory

Moreland stay intouch with the leaders after a fine display against Balwyn. Burukhan Koca bagged 4 goals and teammate Turhan Sunbul got a hat-trick as Moreland attack was on song. Balwyn had a limited bench and that was a big difference on the day.

Moreland FC 9 (B. Koca 4, T. Sumbul 3, S. Akyol, S. Murat) def. FC Balwyn 5 (T. Imeri 3, M. Saric, T. Saric)

### Pascoe Vale stays on top of the table

Pascoe Vale remains on top of the league with a 7-6 victory over a courageous Brunswick side. Pascoe Vale were made to work hard for the victory, they were forced into uncharacteristic mistakes as they conceded 6 goals. Brunswick were unlucky not to hold on for a draw, but this should be encouraging signs for Brunswick team.

Pascoe Vale FC 7 ( J. Da Silva 2, S. Soufi 2, E. Simsek, A. Orme, M. Piga (OG)) CF Brunswick 6 (J. Slovacek 2, N. Yaw 2, A. Colosimo

### Hume scoring goals for Fun

Hume scored another 8 goals in a game as they defeated FC Prahran. The Hume side is enjoying their Futsal at the moment and it shows on the pitch, their attack was ruthless as they dominated an out of form Prahran side.

**FUTSAL** 

Vic Vipers players Deigo Garcia, Victor Brauner and Ciro Rinaldi all on

Ioan from Western Australian SF5 league. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

Hume FC 8 (M. Vragovski 2, V. Mazurskiy 2, M. Tankir, R. Culculoglu, S. Cicek, A. Ramzy) def. FC Prahran 1 (H. Diagne)

### Fitzroy win thanks to Brazilian keeper Lorenzo De **Paris**

Fitzrov have held onto a lead for the first time this season and they have to thank their keeper Lorenzo De Paris. Ashburton had no answers for this world-class keeper as he saved everything. Hopefully Fitzroy can get used holding a lead and it will see them move up the ladder.

Fitzroy FC 3 (P. Robotis 2, R. Covarrubias) def. Ashburton FC 1 (A. Farina)

### Julardzija scores 9 as Metropolitan beat Essendon

Juso Julardzija was the star of round 7 as he scored 9 of his teams 10 goals as they defeated Essendon. The match seemed over early on as Metro turned off the gas and allowed Essendon to make the score more respectable. Metro will be hoping "JJ" can keep scoring so they can remain at the pointy end of the table. Metropolitan FC 10 (J. Julardzija 9, A. Redzepovic) def. FC Essendon 5 (M. Hernandez, J. Jiminez, J. Ihasz, B. Varega, P. Atsikidis)

### V-League Standings

**FUTSAL** 

P W D L GF GA GD Pts 1 Pascoe Vale FC 7 6 1 0 62 27 +35 19 7 6 0 1 64 32 +32 18 2 Metropolitan FC 7 5 1 1 53 18 +35 16 3 Hume FC 4 Moreland FC 7 5 0 2 39 45 -6 15 7 4 1 2 35 29 5 Vic Vipers FC +6 13 6 Ashburton FC 7 4 1 2 24 18 +6 13 7 Fitzroy FC 7 2 1 4 28 28 0 7 8 CF Brunswick 7 2 0 5 30 41 9 FC Prahran 7 2 0 5 30 47 10 FC Essendon 7 2 0 5 20 53 11 FC Balwyn 7 1 1 5 33 55 -22 4 12 Brighton FC 7 0 0 7 16 41 -25 0

### **Round 8 Clashes** Friday December 14

6:30pm - FC Prahran vs. Ashburton FC 7:20pm – CF Brunswick vs. Metropolitan FC 8:10pm – Vic Vipers FC vs. Pascoe Vale FC 9:00pm – FC Balwyn vs. Hume FC 9:50pm – Brighton FC vs. Moreland FC 10:40pm – FC Essendon vs. Fitzroy FC

### **Round 9 Clashes Sunday December 16**

2:00pm - Moreland FC vs. FC Balwyn 3:00pm - Pascoe Vale FC vs. CF Brunswick 4:00pm – Hume FC vs. FC Prahran 5:00pm – Ashburton FC vs. FC Fitzroy 6:00pm – Metropolitan FC vs. FC Essendon 7:00pm – Vic Vipers FC vs. Brighton FC

### **Top Goal Scorers**

Burukan Koca (Moreland FC)- 11 Goals Jose Portillo (Pascoe Vale FC) – 10 Goals Alija Redzepovic (Metropolitan FC) – 10 Goals Juso Julardzija (Metropolitan FC) – 9 Goals Ernie Simsek (Pascoe Vale FC) – 8 Goals Sofiane Soufi (Pascoe Vale FC) - 7 Goals

The Futbol Town Show every Tuesday 6.30pm on C31 and C44Digital





### **Planet Football**

### **Honduras**



### By Alvaro Rodriguez

NAME: Honduras
CAPITAL: Tegucigalpa
POPULATION: (2010 approx.)

CONFEDERATION: CONCACAF INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Copa America bronze-medalists 2001; CONCACAF Gold Cup winners 1981, runners-up 1985, 1991; UNCAF/Central American Cup winners 1993, 1995, 2011, runners-up 2005

FIFA WORLD RANKING: 56th WORLD CUP APPEARANCES: 1982, 2010

### WHO ARE YA

The Republic of Honduras(literally 'depths' in Spanish) is situated in the centremost point of Central America, bordered by Guatemala, the Caribbean Ocean (the country also possesses a tiny Pacific coastline), El Salvador and Nicaragua. Before the arrival of the Spanish in the early 1500s, what is now Honduras was inhabited by the Ch'orti' Maya Indians, related to the Maya clans to the west (southern Mexico and so on); in 1502 Christopher Columbus, on his last voyage to the New World, landed on the modern-day Bay Islands east of the country, however it wasn't until 1524 that the Spanish conquistadors led by the famed conqueror of the Aztecs in Mexico, Hernán Cortés, claimed the territory for Spain despite stiff resistance from the indigenous populace. The territory was duly incorporated into



Honduran goal machine David Suazo in his Inter Milan days.

tually dissolved in 1840 despite

the efforts of its Honduran-born

president Francisco Morazán to

preserve the union; to this day he

remains a revered figure in Hon-

As was the case with its neigh-

bouring countries, the sovereign

Honduras that rose from the ashes

of the Confederation was an au-

tocratic 'banana republic' whose

wealthy elite politically and eco-

nomically oppressed the poor and

middle-class, a state of affairs jus-

tified throughout most of the 20th

duras and El Salvador.



El Salvador defeats Honduras in 1969



Just in case the GPS isn't working...

the Captaincy-General of Guate-Century as protecting the country mala within the wider Vicerovfrom 'Communist interests'. It was alty of New Spain' dominion. The the delicate economic-trade situasociety the Spaniards set up here tion in Honduras and neighbourwas an amalgam of their own and ing El Salvador that was the main catalyst for the 1969 'Soccer War' those elements of the indigenous deemed compatible, following the fought between the two countries example of their peers throughjust after Honduras' World Cup out the Americas. Honduras and qualifying elimination by El Salvaits fellow Central American states dor. Honduras returned to civilian proclaimed independence from rule in 1979, ironically just as El the Spanish Crown on September Salvador's brutal 12-year civil war 15th, 1821 after three centuries of kickstarted, although Honduras colonial rule, but then were immewould play a staging role in the diately annexed by the recently-American CIA's war against the proclaimed Mexican Empire. Hav-Communist Sandinista governing then fought off the Mexicans, ment of Nicaragua during the '80s. the Central American states of Despite suffering heavily as a re-Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, sult of Hurricane Mitch in 1998 Nicaragua and Costa Rica merged and the 2009 constitutional crisis to form the Central American Conthat resulted in the ouster of Presifederation, a republic that evendent Manuel Zelaya, Honduras has

### SO WHAT YOU DONE? Honduras is as football-mad as

any country in the region(barring baseball-obsessed Nicaragua); its national team's fortunes are everything to the average red-blooded Honduran bloke! However the country has had a somewhat patchy international record

managed a semblance of political

stability despite the great socio-

economic inequalities plaguing it

that are endemic in its neighbours

throughout the ages, a regional Central American powerhouse forever lapping at the heels of continental big-boys Mexico and the US. Despite its feared status within Central American football, Honduras has only won the continental Gold Cup once and been a losing finalist twice, although it has the distinction of being a CONCACAF-invitational side to acquit itself well in the CONME-BOL region's Copa America where they won bronze in 2001.

The 1969 Soccer War might well have forever defined Honduran football if not for its eventual success in qualifying for the World Cup in 1982 alongside its old rival El Salvador. Drawn in Group 5 against hosts and old colonial masters Spain, Yugoslavia and Northern Ireland, the Hondurans caused a shock by drawing 1-all against the Spaniards and then repeating the dose(same margin too) against the Ulstermen before a credible 1-0 loss to the Yugoslavs proved Honduras' undoing. Despite finishing last in their group, the Hondurans nonetheless had given a good account of themselves, hinting perhaps at a quick return to the big stage for Mexico '86 - sadly for them they lost out to debutants Canada, and it wouldn't be until South Africa

2010 that they would return to the big dance, where they finished last with a single draw against Switzerland to their name. Nonetheless, their semi-final appearance in the following year's CONCACAF Gold Cup would have proved some consolation, adding to their UNCAF Cup victory by which they secured Gold Cup qualification.

### **BIG CLUBS**

The country's premier club is Club Deportivo Olimpia, winner of a whopping 25 Honduran league titles, twice winner and runnerup of the CONCACAF Champions' Cup(now League) and twice played as a losing finalist in the now-discontinued Interamerican Cup between CONCACAF and CONMEBOL's club champions. The country's other powerhouses are Motagua, Real España and Marathón - between them these three have won 30 titles, which serves to highlight the extent of Olimpia's domestic dominance.

### REP YOUR COLORS

Nicknamed La H The Big H'(although neighbouring countries' fans call them Los Catrachos, a jocular term for Hondurans in general), the Honduran NT wears the royal-blue and white of neighbouring El Salvador and Nicaragua, albeit traditionally in a blue/ white/blue template as opposed to its western neighbour's all-blue with white trims; in recent times the all-white away strip has taken the place of the home strip, the blue now being the away.

As for the clubs, Olimpia wears all-white with celeste trims(rather like El Salvador's Alianza), its away substitutes white for black; Motagua wear navy-blue with gold trims and a hooped celeste/navy-blue away strip; Marathón wear a green/white/red template akin to the Mexican NT and an all-black away strip, whilst Real España wear yellow(at times gold) and black vertical stripes, black shorts and socks, like the kit of Uruguayan powerhouse Peñarol.

### MATCHWINNERS

Striker David Suazo is the country's greatest-ever player by virtue of the lofty heights he reached in his club career in the late Noughties-a youth product of Marathón, he was signed by Olimpia where he managed 10 games and 5 goals over 3 years. Despite that paltry return, he was nonetheless snapped up by Serie A Cagliari before signing with Inter Milan in 2007, becoming an integral part of the team for a time and threatening to be one of the next big things in world football, but alas it was not to last.

Other current Honduran internationals with vast overseas experience include Maynor Figueroa, Wilson Palacios and Roger Espi-

### SO WHAT NOW?

The Big H have qualified for the final-round Hexagonal phase of CONCACAF's WC qualifiers, with hopes fairly high that they can reach Brazil 2014 and in so doing make history by qualifying for consecutive World Cups for the first time - but with the US and Mexico forever on the prowl, the Hondurans will find it anything but easy.

### All Nations Cup 2012



Goran Zoric (Serbia) goes down after trying to force his way through the Chilean defence, Alex Rojas is about to tidy up. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

# It's a Scotland v Serbia Final!

By Norm Edga

The semi-finals of the 2012 All Nations Tournament last Sunday brought together Scotland against Ireland and Serbia played Chile in what was an enjoyable afternoon of the world game. The playing conditions only being affected by a fairly strong wind favouring the High Street Road goal.

In what proved to be a classic encounter in the British way also had seven bookings and one send off. In a game that could have gone either way Scotland got away to good lead, Ireland fought back but then Scotland managed to get what proved to be the winner.

Scotland got away to a great start when Luke Sherbon gave them the lead after ten minutes and Dan Sweeney consolidated their position in the 30th minute with the second goal.

But in the classic never-say-die British (or is that Celtic) way Ireland came out in the second half and got right back into the game. Ireland had much more of the play and after a period during which Ireland dominated with Simon Kelly and Alan Kearney showing out, Simon Kelly got them back into the game when he scored in the 59th minute. Ireland continued to probe and Kelly got the equaliser in the 66th minute when he headed in a cross to set up what was an exciting last twenty minutes. All the goals to this stage had been scored against the wind.

Both teams had chances to take the lead until Dan Sweeney got the ball twenty-five metres from goal on the right and scored in the 77th minute with a great left





Ray Lally (Ireland) boots the ball away from Luke Sherbon (Scotland). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

foot shot into the top left had corner that the goalie could do nothing about.

Scotland then had Zoran Petrevski sent off for an altercation in the Ireland penalty area in the 85th minute but then could have finally settled the game when Dan Sweeney found himself with only the goalie to beat but Nick Abougelis saved well.

Ireland with the advantage of the extra man kept pushing forward but Scotland managed to play out time to win 3-2

In the other semi-final Serbia playing against the wind took their chances and raced to a 3-0 lead. The first goal was a great shot from twenty-five metres from Nemenja Lojanica which hit the back of the net like a rocket and left Chris Petropouthin air. Well worked team goals from Milos Lujic in the 37th minute after receiving the ball from Nemanja Vucic and Velibor Mitrovic in the 41st minute gave Serbia the 3-0 lead. Chile hit back straight away just on the stroke of half time when Darryl Roach got in behind the Serbian defence on the left of the penalty area to hit a great shot inside the far post past goalkeeper Branislav Karaga.

Chile could make no impression on the scoreboard in the second half despite the efforts

of Darryl Roach up forward, Andy Jerez in midfield and Alex Rojas. Serbia with Goran Zoric prominent extended their lead in the 77th minute when Nemanja Lojanica scored his second goal to give Serbia a 4-1 lead which they held till the final whistle.

The final next Sunday at 2pm should prove to be a good contest between Scotland and Serbia with Frank McGrellis coaching Scotland and Lobo Milojevic in charge for Serbia,

The final between Scotland and Serbia will be played at the earlier time of 2pm on Sunday 16th December at the Knox Regional Football Centre. The Americas

# SAO PAULO CLINCH COPA SUDAMERICANA



By Francis Fields

Argentinian side Tigre decided to abandon the second half after a brawl at half time in the second leg final to award Sao Paulo the 2012 title.

Lucas Moura was the talk of the town in a very colourful reception at the Morumbi stadium.

Scores remained 0-0 as the young midfielder was farewelled in style in front of home fans. Lucas is off to Paris St Germain but not before opening the scoring in the Copa Sudamericana final second leg.

Osvaldo put the second six minutes later with daft, comfortable chip to sink Tigre after 30 minutes of play.

Referee Enrique Osses had to restrain players after a meleé got out of control at half time and incidents at the players' tunnel.

It was a frustrating Tigre side in the first half and as two players, Gastón Díaz and Paulo Miranda from the home side got their marching orders during the brawl. Assistant referee Julio Bascuñán announced the game was to be finished at half time, in extraordinary circumstances as Sao Paulo were crowned champions.

Generally speaking, it was a disappointing affair in what South American football can expose, as Tigre decided to only play 45 minutes, with the unfortunate circumstances.

Next year Sao Paulo will defend its crown and also qualify to the next edition of the Copa Libertadores.

There are speculation of Tigre abandoning amidst threats at gunpoint and players bearing scars of bruises and cuts from the all-in brawl.

A sorry way to end the continental championship season. What happened on the pitch is rightfully theirs, for Sao Paulo that is, what happened off it for football's sake. should not with only 18 months until the World Cup to be staged.

### BOCA SACKS COACH

Julio Falcioni's tenure at Boca Juniors is over after club president Daniel Angelici said Monday the coach's contract will not be renewed.

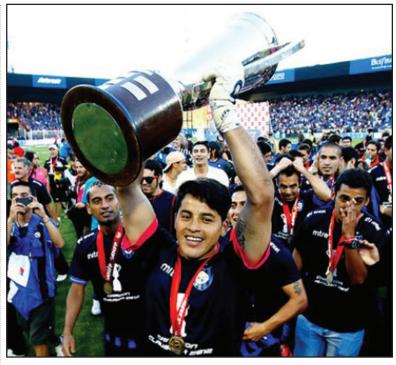
Falcioni was hired two years ago and brought Boca a league title, as well as steering the famous Buenos Aires club to the finals of last season's Copa Libertadores, Latin America's most important club tournament.

Angelici said his decision not to renew Falcioni's contract was influenced on Saturday when Boca fans, despite a 2-1 victory over Godoy Cruz, jeered Falcioni with dozens of handmade signs call on him to quit.

"What happened made us reflect,"

Angelici told reporters. Boca finished in sixth place in the

just-completed Inicial tournament, the first half of Argentina's split season. Velez Sarsfield won the



An unlikely champion in Huachipato lifting the Chilean Clausura title.

title with 41 points. Boca finished out with Falcioni.It also marked the eight points behind and was in confinal match at Boca for defender tention until the last two rounds of Rolando Schiavi, who is expected the season. to move next season to become an Despite his success, Falcioni was assistant coach to Palermo.

Schiavi is also reported to be never a favorite of Boca fans who disliked his more conservative interested in a move to China. style of play. Former Boca coach Schiavi broke down crying on the pitch, reading signs like: "For leav-Carlos Bianchi and former Boca player Rodolfo Arruabarrena are ing everything on the field, thank vou.""Eternally Grateful," reported as the top two candidates another.Falcioni was greeted with to replace Falcioni. River Plate has a new coach in several signs that read "Good Bye Ramón Díaz going into the second

"A headline in Sunday's La Nación half of the season, while Argentina's other famous club in Boca summed up Falcioni's position: Juniors may also be on the verge of "On the Ropes." Carlos Bianchi, who has coached Boca in two premaking a coaching change. Boca coach Julio Falcioni was vious stints, is reportedly in line to booed off the pitch in his team's replace Falcioni. Velez finished with 2-1 victory over Godoy Cruz in the 41 points in 19 games, five ahead of final round of the first half of the Newell's and Belgrano, and seven Argentine split season, called the in front of Lanus.

Inicial tournament.

on for another year.

Supercup.

eight seasons.

and had reportedly agreed to stay

Manuel Lanzini and Carlos Sán-

chez scored for River. It was a

good start for Díaz, who won seven

trophies in two coaching stints at

River Plate more than a decade ago

five league titles, the Copa Lib-

ertadores and the South American

Farías found the net for Indepen-

diente, and Emanuel Gigliotti

scored twice for Colon.Most of the

drama in the first division ended

last weekend when Velez Sarsfield

wrapped up the title — its third in

That put the focus on Boca and

Falcioni.Falcioni, who has won a

league title with Boca and took the

team to the final of last season's

Copa Libertadores, was the least

popular person on the field on Sat-

urday. Former Boca star Martin

Palermo, now the coach of Godoy

So did Juan Román Riquelme, the

moody midfielder who left Boca

after last season following a falling

Cruz, received warm applause.

Osmar Ferreyra and Ernesto

Also last Saturday, it was: Argenti-The deafening disapproval at Bonos Juniors 1, Newell's Old Boys 3; ca's La Bombonera stadium came Atletico Rafaela O, Velez Sarsfield just a few days after Falcioni met 3; Belgrano 1, Estudiantes 0; and with club president Daniel Angelici Lanus O, San Lorenzo O.

Falcioni, Come Back Román.



has made an offer for AC Milan winger Robinho.Santos revealed Tuesday night that they are interested in getting the Brazilian star back home.

Reports in Brazil have strongly linked the 28-year-old with a return to his former club in the January transfer window and Santos presimove could be confirmed within days."Robinho is very keen to return to Brazil and that means coming back to Santos," Ribeiro told TV O Povo. "We have presented a written offer.

though there is a difference between what the player and the club are asking for. It is not an easy negotiation process, but we will know the outcome next week.

"Robinho helped Santos win the 2002 Brazilian championship with an impressive debut season as an 18-year-old. He played a leading role in the club's 2004 Brazilian championship success before being sold to Real Madrid in 2005.

### **NEW CHILEAN CHAMPIONS**

Huachipato won the Clausura final for the first time in 38 years after a dramatic second leg went all the way to a penalty shootout where they defeated Unión Española.

Huachipato won the second leg 3-1 to bring the score to 4-4 on aggregate and took the tie to a tense penalty shootout which they won

Despite falling behind in the first half hour of the match, Huachipato rallied from behind against an Española team that disappointingly offered very little going forward in the second half, equalling Española's first leg win before going on to clinch the title in the shootout. The match started in a bright, endto-end way and both teams created chances in the early stages.

Huachipato's Braian Rodríguez had the best of them, heading onto the cross bar before Emilio Hernández dallied on the ball in the penalty area and got crowded out when trying to get his shot away. With Huachipato in search of the equalizer Española took a seemingly significant lead on the night taking the aggregate score to 4-1.

Unión Española players broke after dispossessing Huachipato, and Dagoberto Currimilla lashed a left-footed show across Nery Veloso in goal and into the back of the net. Now 4-1 down on aggregate, Huachipato could have limped out of the final but instead kicked into gear and started to work themselves back in the match.

A Sao Paulo in delight showing off club colours at the Morumbi stadium.

Daniel González provided the much need spark for Huachipato, scoring two exceptional goals before halftime to reel the score back to 2-1 on the night and 4-3 on aggregate. His first was a curling free kick that he looped up and over the wall and into the goal, while his second, equally impressive strike saw him dink an outrageous lob from the edge of the area over Eduardo Lobos in goal and into the back of the net.

In the second half, at a time when Española needed to begin to control possession again, Huachipato came out of the blocks quickly, pouring men forward and peppering Lobos' goal with shotsThe Huachipato midfield was very much on top at this stage, while Española, taking every opportunity to slow the game down from the hour mark onwards. had an appeal for a penalty waved away by the referee.

The home team was now doing all the running in the match and the Española team that progressed seamlessly into the finals against the most difficult opponents in the playoffs showed no attacking ambition, with only Emiliano Vecchio looking like he might snatch a goal.

In the closing stages of the match Española's tactics were clear – keep possession so that their opponents couldn't grab a dramatic late equalizer. This tactic seemed to be working up until the 88th minute, when Manuel Villalobos' left-footed volley took Huachipato to a deserved 3-1 lead on the night and 4-4 on ag-

The dreaded penalty shootout beckoned. Unión Española's Vecchio and Huachipato's Rodríguez calmly slotted the opening two penalties, while a missed strike from Sebastián Jaime and Villalobos' saved effort ensured the score stayed at a tense 1-1 in the shootout. After seeing Patricio Rubio convert for Española, Huachipato's

goalscoring hero González, who dragged his team back in to the match, inexplicably ballooned his effort over the bar.

The nerves were evident on the faces of the players at this stage César Cortés levelled the score at 2-2 before Lobos and Miguel Aceva both had their penalties saved. The shootout then went into sudden death and after Española's Braulio Leal missed, defender Omar Merlo slotted his penalty home to win the Clausura for Huachipato.

Huachipato won the shootout with jubilant scenes at the end, as the home fans cheered and the players surrounded each other, celebrate ing their victory over an Española team that had seemed invincible earlier in the playoffs, but fell at the final hurdle with a disappointing second half display.

### MARQUEZ IN TALKS FOR RE-

Rafa Marquez's time in Major League Soccer appears to be coming to an end. The New York Red Bulls defender is in Mexico City working on a deal that will land him with Club Leon, according to a source close to the negotiations. He is expected to sign a two-year deal.

Elias Ayub, co-owner Carlos Slim's chief aide, is believed to be in Mexico's capital to finalize the move Marquez, one of the Red Bulls three Designated Players, has been a disappointment since signing with the Major League Soccer team from Barcelona in 2010. He has played just 35 of a possible 73 games while earning \$4.6 million the second-highest salary in MLS. Marquez had been linked to return to Club Atlas - the place where the Mexican international began his professional career - over the past two offseasons. With an open DF spot, the Red Bulls may look to convince Brazilian star Kaká to leave Real Madrid. Kaká has an apart ment in New York, and his brother Digao plays for the Red Bulls.



dent Luis Alvaro Ribeiro said the



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### **London Calling**



### By Samuel Collins

With the Premier League just a couple of weeks away from the half-way point, this week's column focuses on the best performers of the campaign thus far. Always a controversial topic, the division has seen some stunning individual displays in the opening five months. Here goes...

Petr Cech - The truth is, there hasn't been what you would call, an 'outstanding' goalkeeper in the first half of the season. But one who has recaptured the form that once made him the best 'keeper in Europe is Cech. Not only is the 30-year old an excellent shot-stopper, and solid in the air, he's also a leader - taking the armband from John Terry during the defender's absences this season.

Pablo Zabaleta - Arguably the most underrated player in the division, the Argentine has enjoyed an excellent first-half of the season. Comfortable in various positions, Manchester City have fielded the former Espanyol man at right-back, where he has fended off competition from Maicon to retain his place. Solid, reliable, experienced, a top performer.

Per Mertesacker - Many questioned Arsene Wenger's decision to splash out £8m on the German international last summer, but the Arsenal centre-half has had an impressive few months of late. Vastly experienced, the 28-year old took a season to adapt to the pace of Eng-

# Premier League nears half-way stage



Maroune Fellaini (Everton)

lish football, and the Gunners are now reaping the rewards - Arsenal have the third best defensive record in the league

Ryan Shawcross - No one has made more blocks in the division than the Stoke defender. The former Manchester United reserve has been linked with a return to Old Trafford, and this is not surprising given the quality of Shawcross' displays. A fully committed, oldfashioned type of defender who improves with each season.

Leighton Baines - The Everton left-back is, quite simply, the best left-back in the Premier League. Sure, Ashley Cole is another exceptional player in this position, but is he as consistent as Baines? Many are asking that question now. Outstanding dribbling and crossing skills are matched with strong defensive abilities - the ex-Wigan man could even replace Cole at Chelsea this summer.



Pablo Zabaleta (Man City)

Marouane Fellaini Another Everton player, Fellaini has made a spectacular start to the season. The tall, powerful Belgian has been deployed either as the forward or just off a forward with extremely positive results. 8 goals in 14 league games and numerous quality performances mean the 25-year old's price tag stands at £30m.

Mohamed Diame - When West Ham signed Diame from Wigan on a free transfer in the summer, not many battered an evelid. Just a normal transfer from a struggler to a struggler, right? Wrong. The Senegalese powerhouse has been incredible for the Londoners, a driving force in midfield for the Hammers. A £3.5m release clause in his contract is attracting some of the big

Juan Mata - Everyone knew the Spaniard was a quality player when Chelsea paid Valencia £23m for him, but Mata has stepped it up a level this season. The playmaker has al-



Michu (Swansea City)

ready equalled his league goal tally of last season (6), while his creativity skills have also been fully evident. A class act, who, at 24-years old, is still going to improve. A scary thought for opposing players.

Michu - Six months ago he cost Swansea £2m, now coach Michael Laudrup says he'd cost £30m. The former Rayo Vallecano leads the scoring charts (12 goals in 16 games) and is a huge favourite in Wales already. A major reason why Laudrup's side have enjoyed a thoroughly terrific first-half of the cam-

Luis Suarez - For all of the Uruguayan's controversy - diving, racism et al - there can be no doubting Suarez' quality with a ball at his feet. The Liverpool striker has found the net 10 times, but it's his overall game - creating, dribbling, skill - that reveals his true class. His goal against Newcastle this season was arguably the goal of the season thus far.



Juan Mata (Chelsea)

Robin van Persie - Talking of controversy, Arsenal's decision to sell RVP to Manchester United for £24m in pre-season was heavily criticised by Gooners and media alike, and they've been proven right. 11 goals in 16 league games - including the winner in the Manchester derby recently - have helped Ferguson's side ease to a 6 point lead in the table. Meanwhile, Arsenal's season goes from bad to worse.

David Moyes (coach) - The longserving Scot has been at the helm with Everton for a decade now, and this season has his best ever squad at his disposal. With the Merseysiders residing in 4th place - a lucrative Champions League place - at present, it remains to be seen whether Moyes can help the Blues stay there or not. But the 49-year old's ability to identify talent in the transfer market and formulate a successful hard-working side together is increasingly impressive. A major club surely awaits.

World Club Championship Brazilian outfit Corinthians qualified for the FIFA Club World Cup final in Japan after a 1-0 win over Al Ahly on Wednesday. Corinthians - the Copa Libertadores

champions - will now meet either English Premier League giants Chelsea or Mexican outfit Monterrey in Sunday's

Backed by a large amount of support inside the Toyota Stadium, Corinthians started brighter and had the first chance of the match when Douglas flashed a half volley wide after just nine minutes. Ramy Rabia had a good effort at the

other end for Al Ahly but Corinthians' all-round dominance was made to count on the half-hour mark. Former Bayern Munich forward Paolo Guerrero was the scorer, with the Peruvian heading home a terrific cross

from Douglas. Al Ahly manager Hossam El-Badry introduced Mohamed Aboutrika in the second half and he made an immediate impact for the Egyptian side.

With Aboutrika impressing in midfield, Rabia, Soliman and Ahmed Fathy all had chances to level the scoreline in a much-improved second half. But they were unable to find an equaliser as Corinthians held firm to seal

their spot in the showpiece. In the day's other match, J.League champions Sanfrecce Hiroshima won the fifth-placed playoff against Korea's Ulsan 3-2

Ulsan took the lead thanks to a Hiroki Mizumoto own goal after 17 minutes but Satoru Yamagishi's strike, netted 10 minutes before the half-time break, brought them back into the game. A double from Hisato Sato in the second half secured the win for Sanfrecce. despite Yong Lee's late consolation for the K-League side.



### By Alex Milic

The Serbian Football Association will learn their fate when UEFA's control and disciplinary body meet to the discuss the scenes that erupted during the Under 21s clash between Serbian and England in Kru-

According to UEFA, in light of the complex nature of the case, he hearing should have taken place on November 22, but was postponed "to allow for further investigations."

Following the second leg of a 2013 European Championship play-off in Krusevac, which England won 1-0 for a 2-0 aggregate triumph to reach next year's finals in Israel, ugly scenes errupted.

Connor Wickham's injury-time strike resulted in both sides clashing but as world media reports it is Serbia and only Serbia that should be blamed for the incidents.

There was also a backdrop of alleged racial abuse from the stands as England claimed some of their black players were victims which is the easiest excuse in many

Full-back Danny Rose, dismissed after the final whistle for kicking



he had been particularly targeted for apparent racial abuse from the crowd, but what if the crowd were just booing him for his immature reactions after his send off and his aggressive and unsporting like performance during the match?. Just 90 minutes after the game had ended, the FA made their feelings plain, issuing a statement condemning the racism - reporting a number of incidents to UEFA - and the confrontations that occurred, claiming England's players "were under extreme provocation".

the ball away in anger, complained be favoured in this case as it has Of course the English FA will

more to lose compared to a little country like Serbia.

The Serbian FA countered the day after, denying there were any racist chants before and during the game, whilst claiming Rose behaved in an "inappropriate, unsportsmanlike and vulgar manner" towards their fans.

UEFA quickly charged the Serbian FA with racist chanting, whilst also issuing a further charge to them and the FA with failure to control their players.

strongly in one sense by issu-

ing lengthy bans to two players and two officials for their part in the melee that occurred after the

Since the incident the FA have been in close contact with UEFA over the past two months, providing them with the required documentation and evidentiary support ahead of the hearing.

It is a question of awaiting a verdict now the dust has settled on the matter given the furore that unfolded in the days that followed. Professional Footballers' Association chairman Clarke Carlisle was amongst those who suggested Serbia should receive a "significant" international ban.

Even Prime Minister David Cameron said he was "appalled" at the scenes, stating Britain expected "tough sanctions" if racism was proven.

That call was endorsed by Sports Minister Hugh Robertson who went so far as to write to UEFA president Michel Platini, in support of the FA, urging his governing body to take strong action.

Rose also stood his ground as he said he was "slapped twice" before he was dismissed following a game in which he claims he was subjected to "monkey chanting" throughout.

FA general secretary Alex Horne described the events in Serbia as "disgraceful", and suggested England would "question the validity of sending a team to Serbia in the future".

UEFA will certainly be expected to impose stiff penalties against Serbia, rather than any kind of desultory fine as occurred in

On that occasion the Serbian FA were fined 16,000 following a match between the two countries at the Under-21 European Championship in Holland when England defender Nedum Onuoha was racially abused.

The FA, meanwhile, have confirmed they are still awaiting to hear whether Under-21 players Steven Caulker and Tom Lees, along with coach Steve Wigley, are to be charged by Serbian police.

### Spanish Copa Del Ray Wrap

Barcelona have defeated Cordoba 2-0 in the first leg of their Copa del Rey last-16 tie, while Real Madrid stumbled away at Celta Vigo. Lionel Messi was the difference once again for Barcelona, scoring in either half to take his 2012 tally to 88 goals and put his side in pole position to advance to the quarter-finals ahead of their second-tier opponents.

In Vigo, Real had Cristiano Ronaldo to thank for giving them a crucial away goal after a disappointing match away from home

Celta stunned their much-vaunted opponents in the 56th minute when Michael Krohn-Dehli's teasing cross found Mario Bermejo at the back post and the veteran forward side-footed the ball home from a tight angle. The theme of Real's stuttering season continued 22 minutes later when Celta's pressure forced the capital club to cough up position and Cristian Bus-

with the ball and then smashing a brilliant strike from outside the box into the far top corner. But with a second leg in Madrid to come, Ronaldo gave Real plenty of hope of progressing to the quarterfinals of the Copa del Rey, scoring in the 87th minute after timing his

tos took advantage, driving forward

In other first leg results in the Round of 16, Sevilla look to have just about qualified after smashing Mallorca 5-0, Valencia won 2-0 away to Osasuna and Atletico Madrid triumphed 3-0 over Getafe.

run expertly to get in behind Celta's



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### **Dirty Derby Fallout**

When Robin Van Persie scored the winner in the 92nd minute of extra time to give Manchester United, a gripping 3-2 win over title challengers and most hated rivals, City, it ended a pulsating match. After a Wayne Rooney double in the first half, City mounted a comeback thanks to goals from Pablo Zabaleta and Yaya Toure to level the scores.

Queue the wild celebrations then, when RVP settled the score. Yet, it will be marred by the trouble that followed. United defender Rio Ferdinand, celebrating wildly in front of the City fans, was hit by a coin above his eve. With blood streaming out, a City fan ran out on to pitch to settle the score, before being held back by keeper Joe Hart. Since then, the FA has opened

an investigation into the incident, liaising with the Greater Manchester Police in regards to the Gordon Taylor, the Chief Execu-

tive of the Professional Players' Association has called for greater protection of players. His idea was to install "protection nets" around the ground to avoid, objects being thrown and fans invading the pitch.

In a radio interview with the BBC, Taylor said: "I think you've got to give consideration to possibly, as has been suggested, some netting



Rio Ferdinand shows the scars of battle this week.

in vulnerable areas, be it behind the goals and round the corner

The idea stems from other European leagues, including the German Bundesliga, where the net is used to safe guard the players.

It wasn't the first time in the match that missiles were thrown. Whilst taking a corner, Wayne Rooney was plummeted with objects by City fans and luckily was not struck. It is the second time it has happened to Rooney, following similar incidents against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

The incident is the latest of a string of cases in the last few months where fans are caused problems. In October, Sheffield Wednesday goalkeeper Chris Kirkland was struck in the face when a Leeds fan ran onto the field.

Earlier in the year, former Leeds star Alan Smith had to be rescued by police after he was mobbed by Huddersfield fans at the final whistle of MK Dons' visit to the Galpharm Stadium.

Yet, that wasn't the only controversy. Ashley Cole's mother and brother tweeted their pleasure that Ferdinand was hit by the coin.

However Cole's mother has since denied it and Ferdinand has not responded to the tweets.

It brings into question Ferdinand's decision to celebrate in front of City supporters was the right call. Former United player Paddy Crerand lost his cool on radio, when listeners suggested that Ferdinand was to blame and players shouldn't be celebrating in front of opposing fans.

This isn't the first time it has happened. Back in 2007, Gary Neville incurred the wrath of Liverpool fans, when he celebrated in front of them; and in 2010. Emmanuel Adebayor celebrated in front of Arsenal fans. Both received fines for their actions.

It's a sad state when players are restricted to celebrate because of the idiocy of fans. Players are abused outright throughout the games with horrendous chants. Is it that offensive to fans for someone to punch their fist in the air? Football fans need to get a grip, because the net is coming on around them and soon, they will be punished for it.

### **ENGLAND** EPL

	_	147	_		_	•	25	<u> </u>	Last5
	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts	Most re
1 Manchester United	16	13	0	3	40	23	+17	39	WWWWL
2 Manchester City	16	9	6	1	30	14	+16	33	LDWDW
3 Chelsea	16	8	5	3	28	17	+11	29	WLDDL
4 Everton	16	6	8	2	27	20	+7	26	WDDDL
5 Tottenham Hotspur	16	8	2	6	29	25	+4	26	LWWWL
6 West Bromwich	16	8	2	6	24	21	+3	26	LLLWW
7 Arsenal	16	6	6	4	26	16	+10	24	WLDDW
8 Swansea City	16	6	5	5	26	21	+5	23	LWWDW
9 Stoke City	16	5	8	3	14	12	+2	23	DWWWD
10 Liverpool	16	5	7	4	22	20	+2	22	WWLDW
11 West Ham United	16	6	4	6	21	20	+1	22	LWLLD
12 Norwich City	16	5	7	4	17	24	-7	22	WWDDW
13 Fulham	16	5	5	6	27	27	+0	20	WLDLL
14 Newcastle United	16	4	5	7	18	23	-5	17	LWLLL
15 Sunderland	16	3	7	6	17	21	-4	16	WLLDL
16 Southampton	16	4	3	9	22	32	-10	15	WLDWW
17 Aston Villa	16	3	6	7	12	23	-11	15	DDWDL
18 Wigan Athletic	16	4	3	9	17	30	-13	15	DLLWL
19 Reading	16	1	6	9	19	31	-12	9	LLLLL
20 QPR	16	0	7	9	13	29	-16	7	DDDLL
FDI Proviow							т	hor	is also t

A recent stats analysis was conducted, which found that if games had ended at the 80 minutes mark, instead of the regular 90 minutes, Tottenham Hotspurs would be on top of the table.

Some might say it's a pointless stat. In the grand scheme of things, it is, but if you were a Spurs fan you could be encouraged at the stat. It shows Tottenham are playing well and that fading out of games can be fixed. Which means, when Andre Villas-Boas gets around to it, Spurs can be force in the Premier League.

Currently, they are sitting 5th on the ladder, equal on points with Everton, who are holding position in the last Champions League place. It could be said, that nothing has changed under Villas-Boas reign compared to the Harry Redknapp's. There is though, a plethora of differences.

Spurs are more fluid in their play and more diverse in their tactics. AVB has made them switch formations seamlessly, when needed, as well as instructing players to play different roles throughout the game.

Frailties at the back are a concern for the EPL league leaders.

There is also the defensive factor.

At Chelsea, he was known for his

gung-ho style and relegating his

defensive duties. At Tottenham,

he has often gone to a defensive

structure and playing a very counter-attacking game. Mainly, AVB himself is a different person. His stint at Chelsea destroyed him, where player mutiny was the reason for his downfall. Whereas at Chelsea, he caused problems with a number of players, including Alex, Didier Drogba

and Nicolas Anelka, he hasn't

made the same mistake twice.

His decision to include and make fringe players, Tom Huddlestone and Michael Dawson part of the squad, despite the fact that he wanted to seel them earlier in the year, highlights his new found flexibility.

The problems of conceding late can be attributed to a lack of confidence of finishing off games, as well as fatigue of players. AVB has been known to playing his best players and squad in Europa League games, where he has received criticism for it.

It's unjust though. Spurs are through to the next round and are in with a chance to win the tourna-

Arsenal 2 - 0 WBA

Man City 2 - 3 Man Utd

Everton 2 - 1 Tottenham

Sunderland 3-0 Reading

Newcastle Utd v Man City Aston Villa 0 - 0 Stoke City Chelsea PSTP Southampton Southampton 1 - 0 Reading Liverpool v Aston Villa Sunderland 1 - 3 Chelsea Man Utd v Sunderland Swansea Ci 3 - 4 Norwich C Norwich City v Wigan Athletic Wigan Athletic 2 - 2 QPR QPR v Fulham Stoke City v Everton Tottenham v Swansea City West Ham Utd 2 - 3 Liverpool WBA v West Ham Utd Fulham 2 - 1 Newcastle United Reading v Arsenal

### One To Watch This Weekend..

How will City respond to their derby defeat? They trave to Newcastle, who are struggling to regain their form of last season, winning only one of their last seven games Can they bounce back against a vulnerable City?

> ment. In England it is considered a waste of time for teams. Therefore, credit is due to AVB for focusing on claiming a trophy. If Tottenham are to be considered a "top team", they must be willing to try and compete for every trophy. AVB was quick to deny the claims

though: "I don't agree that the Europa League has affected us physically in the league games as some of our best performances this season have come on the Sunday after a European game. So that is not the problem. It's the nature of the game"

As AVB mentioned, "the league is very tight at the moment" and a run of a couple of wins and the unpredictably of the league, means Spurs have every chance to make it in top four.

And their run could start this week, where they host Swansea, who are in a good from themselves, under new boss Michael Laudrup. Swansea represent everything that AVB wants Spurs to represent: flowing, fast and slick football. AVB has been given a second chance to make his dream become a reality with Spurs. He better not bugger

### **London Eye**





### By Eddie Gray

Six points clear at the top of the Premier League, qualification for the Champions league knockout phases already secured and a fantastic 92nd minute winner against their closest title rivals would usually mean everything was rosy Manchester United. But that is far from the case.

United's inherent defensive problems have caused them trouble all year and have had to be heavily reliant on their attacking options to get them out of trouble.

If it weren't for Robin Van Persie, Wayne Rooney, Javier Hernandez, Danny Welbeck and co, the Red Devils would be nowhere near the summit of the Premier League.

So why have a team, who conceded 28 goals in the 09-10 season, 37 in 10-11 and 33 last year, let in 23 goals already this campaign after just 16 games?

One obvious difference is the lack of a first choice goalkeeper. In the past two years the Manchester club have chopped and changed between David De Gea and Anders Lindegaard with nei-

ther one cementing themselves in the number one jersey, unlike previous campaigns when the defence was fully aware the commanding presence of Edwin Van Der Sar was behind them.

sticks has caused the back four ship challenging outfit.

little unity and solidarity with opposition strike forces getting in behind at will, as well as being woefully unorganised from set

The latter was blatantly evident against Reading when the men from Old Trafford conceded two from in-swinging corners.

There was an alarming absence of physicality at set plays, which United have been missing since Nemanja Vidic was injured last year, that allowed Reading to bully their way past their markers

In that game it was Jonny Evans who lost his man to allow the Royals to score but it was a rare bad performance for the Northern Irish man, who has been exceptional this season in a struggling defensive unit after a difficult start to his Manchester United career.

Another individual who has impressed this term has been right

The fullback has adapted his game and is now far more reliable and consistent with his per-

This indecision between the

to look bereft of confidence and perform way below what vou would expect from a champion-Collectively they have shown

and find the back of the net.

back Rafael Da Silva.



# United give chasing pack hope

formances, with his previously trademark lunges no longer a feature of his play.

However, the remaining two positions in the back four have left United in trouble.

Rio Ferdinand, who has occupied the other central defensive berth for the majority of the seaprevious best.

The England international has lost a yard of pace and struggled to adapt his game initially, with his lack of speed being exploited, most notably when he was left one on one with Gareth Bale

which saw the Welshman skip past him with ease and neatly

But after a turbulent start the experienced professional has learnt and added a new style to his arsenal and has been far stronger in recent weeks.

However, the real issue has ome in the left back position.

Patrice Evra has been a permanent fixture in the United line up since his transfer from Monaco in 2005, but in the last three years has shown signs that playing near on every game in every season since his move has caught up with him.

The defender has become far less effective going forward, an aspect of his game that he was once regarded as the best of the world at, with his head down approach often compromising attacks rather than assisting them.

But it is defensively where the Frenchman has been at his poorest.

Evra seem to have adopted a square on technique when in a one on one situation which makes beating him on the outside seem relatively simple.

His method has been exposed by many, with wingers turning him easily and getting in behind, leaving the left back unable to recover because he is so flat

This habit has been evident in the former Monaco players play for three years now and yet he still remains an integral figure in the United defence, a huge sign he is a massive character off the field, a valued leader and regarded highly by his fellow players.

Despite still being a crucial figure around Old Trafford his talents are clearly on the decline and the strongest indication was given this summer that Evra's playing days for United were numbered when Sir Alex Ferguson chased Leighton Baines.

Although put off in the summer, due to an inflated fee, United look set to return for the England fullback in January as Evra has failed to show signs he is going to return to his imperious best. Ferguson will be hoping in the

brief period before the new year Evra's form will return, but when the window opens the United boss is unlikely to waste anytime in hunting down a replacement for his current left back.

With PSG rumoured to be in pu suit of Evra the move for Baines looks a strong possibility, but despite the Frenchman's poor performances of late his excellent displays at the start of his United career should not be forgotten, after all it was during this time he was arguably regarded as the best left back in the world.



Goal! Weekly - Friday 14th December 2012



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By Luca Cetta

### Are Inter the real anti-Juve?

Inter leapfrogged Napoli following their win in Milan, while Juventus welcomed back Antonio Conte in the best possible manner. Milan continued their recent revival as Roma and Fiorentina played out a thriller.

In August, Juventus were seen

as favourites to retain their Serie A crown after strengthening their squad. The question then was who would challenge the Bianconeri? As Juve continued their unbeaten streak during the opening rounds, Napoli were the first to challenge their supremacy. They travelled to Turin but left defeated. Their 'anti-Juve' tag dissipated. When Inter conquered Turin they were hailed as the biggest challengers. But poor form thereafter made those who hailed Andrea Stramaccioni's men have serious doubts. Going into their clash at the Stadio Giuseppe Meazza, Napoli had experienced a solid run of form to trail Juve by two points. They led Inter by the same amount. Esteban Cambiasso started in central defence with Walter Samuel suspended, while Antonio Cassano returned from his own ban. Napoli's Goran Pandev was on the bench after weeks out with



Pablo Daniel Osvaldo #9 with his teammates of AS Roma, celebrates after scoring the fourth goal in the 4-2 win over Fiorentina.

joy this victory, but tomorrow we Inter scored with their first chance when Cassano's corner reached Fredy Guarin at the back post. The Colombian ghosted into the area to volley from close range. At the other end Lorenzo Insigne and Marek Hamsik went close. Before the break Guarin threaded through for Diego Milito, who drilled a shot low into the far corner to double the advantage. Cassano struck the post just after the restart, but the lead was then halved. Pandev and Christian Maggio were denied, only for Edinson Cavani to bundle the ball over the line. Further chances went begging as Inter held on for a 2-1 win to move into second and perhaps finally confirm their 'anti-Juve' status. Even if it is a tag Stramaccioni wants to avoid. "We are not the anti-Juve, we are not the anti-anything," said the coach. "The last time that you landed us with that epithet we his error. Giampaolo Pazzini then crumbled. Jokes apart we will ennetted from a tight angle, while

will be concentrated on Lazio." The gap to Juventus is now four points after the Bianconeri defeated Palermo. Antonio Conte made his long awaited return to the bench and saw Mirko Vucinic hit the woodwork twice. Amid a hailstorm and heavy pitch, the Montenegrin fed Stephan Lichtsteiner and the Swiss international netted the only goal of the game five minutes after the restart. Antonio Nocerino gifted Torino an opener at home to Milan with a backpass to nobody. Meant for goalkeeper Marco Amelia, it fell horribly short and Mario Santana accepted the gift. But Milan showed they are on the right path as Robinho danced his way through to equalise. Jean Francois Gillet had a second half to forget as he failed to adequately deal with a cross, allowing Nocerino to atone for

Serie A

scoring ways after another Gillet

blunder, Rolando Bianchi scored a

consolation as Milan left Turin 4-2

That matched the score in Rome.

Pizarro missed the contest against

his former club after flying back

Leandro Castan nodded in after

seven minutes, only for Fiorentina

to spring the offside trap and level

through Facundo Roncaglia. Fran-

cesco Totti netted a superb brace

to restore the lead, but Mounir El

Hamdaoui reduced the deficit sec-

onds after the restart. Substitute

win towards the end, drawing to a

Parma 2-1, as Chievo registered a

shock 2-0 win at Cagliari. Pescara

heaped more misery on Luigi Del

Neri with a 2-0 win over Genoa.

**SPAIN** La Liga

10

2 Atlético Madrid

8 Real Valladolid 9 Real Sociedad

12 Real Zaragoza

13 Rayo Vallecano 14 Athletic Club

15 Celta de Vigo

17 Mallorca

19 Espanyol

20 Deportivo La C.

10 Valencia

3 Real Madrid

5 Real Betis

7 Getafe

Pablo Osvaldo secured Roma's

close this breathtaking match.

Elsewhere, Atalanta defeated

to Chile at the news of his sister's

death. Stevan Jovetic again missed

Fiorentina midfielder David

out for the Viola.

winners.

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts	Last5ga Most rece
1 Juventus	16	12	2	2	33	10	+23	38	WWLDW
2 Internazionale	16	11	1	4	29	17	+12	34	WWLDL
3 Napoli	16	10	3	3	29	14	+15	33	LWWDW
4 Lazio	16	9	3	4	24	18	+6	30	DWWDW
5 Roma	16	9	2	5	38	26	+12	29	$W\ W\ W\ U\ L$
6 Fiorentina	16	8	5	3	29	18	+11	29	LDDWW
7 Milan	16	7	3	6	28	21	+7	24	WWWDL
8 Udinese	16	5	7	4	24	24	+0	22	WWLDD
9 Catania	16	6	4	6	22	24	-2	22	WLLWD
10 Atalanta	16	7	2	7	17	23	-6	21	WLLLW
11 Parma	16	5	5	6	19	22	-3	20	LLWDD
12 Chievo	16	5	3	8	19	27	-8	18	WWDLD
13 Sampdoria	16	5	3	8	19	23	-4	17	LDWWL
14 Cagliari	16	4	4	8	14	26	-12	16	LLLDD
15 Bologna	16	4	3	9	17	20	-3	15	DWLWL
16 Torino	16	3	7	6	17	21	-4	15	LLDLW
17 Palermo	16	3	5	8	14	23	-9	14	LLWLW
18 Pescara	16	4	2	10	12	30	-18	14	WLLLL
19 Genoa	16	3	3	10	16	28	-12	12	LLWLL
20 Siena	16	4	5	7	15	20	-5	11	LLDWD
Stephan El Sh	aara	wv	ker	of 111	n hi	9	Si	ena	scored fir

Atalanta 2 - 1 Parma Udinese v Palermo Roma 4 - 2 Fiorentina Lazio v Inter Cagliari 0 - 2 Chievo Fiorentina v Siena Palermo 0 - 1 Juventus Catania v Sampdoria Pescara 2 - 0 Genoa Chievo v Roma Siena 1 - 3 Catania Genoa v Torino Torino 2 - 4 Milan Juventus v Atalanta Internazionale 2 - 1 Napoli Milan v Pescara Sampdoria 0 - 2 Udinese Parma v Cagliari Bologna 0 - 0 Lazio Napoli v Bologna

Is Luigi Del Neri's time at Genoa drawing to a close? They have lost seven of eight matches under the tactician and President Enrico Preziosi is notoriously temperamental. The club ordered a press silence this week and there is soul-searching

to be done. Another loss could spell disaster.

ena scored first but lost 3-1 at home to Catania. On Monday evening Udinese claimed a 2-0 win at Sampdoria, while Bologna and Lazio played out a 0-0 stalemate. This weekend's marquee match sees Lazio hosting Inter. After drawing on Monday, Lazio remained entrenched in European contention, but have now slipped three points behind the Champions League zone. Miroslav Klose was only fit enough for the bench on Monday but will likely start, given his replacement Libor Kozak was sent off. The Nerazzurri will be aiming to build on that win over Napoli and attempt to close the gap to Juventus. Samuel returns from suspension and Stramaccioni can rely on what is a fairly settled

Juventus host Atalanta aiming to keep their gap going into Christmas. They face the Bergamo club without Leonardo Bonucci, who reached the yellow card limit in Palermo after being booked for a

Last5games Most recent first

43 W W W W W

WLWWW

WWLWW WLWDL

LWWLL

DWWWL

WDLLW

LDWDL

LDLDL

GD Pts

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+22 37

-13

37

hilariously awful dive. Sebastian Giovinco returns from a one-match stop for the match against the tenth-placed team, who snapped a three-game losing streak. Fiorentina, Napoli and Milan all have winnable clashes at home. Vincenzo Montella's men host bottom-placed Siena in the Tuscan Derby, while Napoli will aim to bounce back against a Bologna outfit hovering above the relegation zone. Milan are one of Serie A's in-form teams but remain nine points away from the coveted third position. They host Pescara, who will be buoyed by last week's win, their first under Cristiano Bergodi Elsewhere, Catania hosts Sampdoria, while Chievo will aim to continue their recent run of form at home against Roma. Genoa are desperately in need of a win at home to Torino, as Parma and Cagliari look to recover from recent defeats. Finally, Udinese hosts Palermo.

# Leo Messi breaks world record, Radamel Falcao breaks Deportivo



### By Pepe Lopez

Leo Messi overcame a knee injury to line up for Barcelona away to Real Betis this past weekend at Estadio Benito Villamarin in Sevilla. It took Messi just 25 minutes to score the 2 goals required to surpass the previous world record tally of 85 goals in 1 calendar year, by Germany's ex-Bayern Munich striker Gerd Muller, achieved in 1972, some 40 years ago.

Speaking to sport1.de, Germany's Gerd Muller had these kind words

"My record stood for 40 years - 85 goals in 60 games - and now the best player in the world has broken it, and I'm delighted for him. He is an incredible player, gigantic. He's such a nice and modest professional and I hope he gets one or two more goals in 2012 and that he can then hold onto the record for the next 40 years. He's fantastic. He only has one defect and that is that he doesn't play for Bayern

Meanwhile, back in the Spanish capital of Madrid, nearest and ironic La Liga title challenger,



Messi Magic! Leo makes it 86 goals in 343 days ...

Atletico Madrid, kept up some

small amount of pressure on Cata-

lan club FC Barcelona with a 6-0

demolition of Galacian side De-

portivo La Coruna. Brazilian Di-

ego Costa opened the scoring after

23 minutes, before the Colombian

ace, Radamel Falcao scored an un-

forgettable 5 goals in the space of

just the next 48 minutes of match

Speaking with Spanish media,

Radamel Falcao was quoted as say-

"It was an unforgettable evening.

I did not expect many goals, but

our team play must be emphasised.

It's nice to be the only player to

ever score five goals and I'm very

excited to be involved in the club's

ing;

history. I do not think about being as big as Ronaldo or Messi. My

dream is to make and grow. Despite the whopping 60 million Euro get out contractual clause with Atletico Madrid, Falcao has no shortage of willing buyers this January transfer window, with Chelsea, Manchester City, Paris St Germain and Real Madrid the media's documented entities. Such is the demand, it is now reported that Atletico Madrid are willing to offer Falcao a new contract to replace his existing contract, which still has 3 and half years to run, in order to increase the buy-out clause. It was reported in the Spanish media that Falcao would be offered a new 7 million Euro per season contract extension by Atletico Madrid.

An unlikely win by Atletico Madrid at Camp Nou this weekend, would bridge the gap at the top of the La Liga standings to just 3 points, with the return match between the two clubs at Atletico's Vicente Calderon Stadium in Madrid in May. Meaning Atletico Madrid still control their destiny and can still win La Liga without having to rely on other results. However, leading European based bookermaker www.bwin.com has listed Barcelona at just \$1.12 for every \$1 spent on Barcelona to win La Liga, and Atletico Madrid at \$26 to win La Liga, way behind Real Madrid at \$6.75.



**Latest Results** 

Mallorca V Athletic Club Málaga 4 - 0 Granada Granada V Real Sociedad R Valladolid 2 - 3 Real Madrid Valencia V R Vallecano Osasuna 0 - 1 Valencia Barcelona V Atlético Madrid Levante 4 - 0 Mallorca Real Zaragoza V Levante Athletic Club 1 - 0 Celta Vigo Real Madrid V Espanyol Atlético Madrid 6 - 0 Deportivo Sevilla V Málaga Real Betis 1 - 2 Barcelona Deportivo V Real Valladolid Rayo Vallecano 0 - 2 Real Celta de Vigo V Real Betis

Getafe v Osasuna

### One To Watch This Weekend...

Barcelona's world record breaking goal scorer Leo Messi comes head to head with Atletico Madrid's fivein-a-match goal scorer Radamel Falcao this weekend at Camp Nou in Barcelona. La Liga's top of the table clash, will enable FC Barcelona to open up a 9 point lead with a win this Sunday morning Australian time



... and the press hail the extraordinary achievement.



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### 1.HNL

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19 4

1 Dinamo Zagreb

5 Slaven Koprivnica

2 Hajduk Split

3 Lokomotiva

4 Rijeka

6 Split

7 Osijek

10 Zadar

11 Cibalia 12 Zagreb

8 Istra 1961

9 Inter Zaprešic

2 Bayer Leverkusen

4 Eintracht Fran..

7 Hamburger SV

10 Hannover 96

16 Hoffenheim

18 Greuther Fürth

17 Augsburg

2 Crysta

3 Middle 4 Hull C

5 Leices

6 Watfor

7 Millwa

8 Bright

9 Notting 10 Derb

11 Black

12 Char

13 Black

15 Hudd

16 Wolv 17 Burn

18 Bolto

19 Birm

20 lpswi

23 Sheffield Wedn... 21 4 3

12 Werder Bremen

8 Borussia M'gla.

5 Schalke 04

6 Stuttgart

9 Freiburg

3 Borussia Dortmund 16

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26 +2

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36 31 31

-5 -4 -16

-15 -19

GD Pts

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> +13 27 27

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+37 41

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Pts	Last5game Most recent f
41	WLWLW
33	WDDDW
32	WLWDW
32	DDWWL
31	DWLWL
30	LWWLW
23	LDLDL
20	LDLLW
19	LLLWD
17	WDWLW

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### **TURKEY** Süper Lig

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1 Galatasaray

2 Fenerbahçe

4 Antalyaspor

5 Kasımpaşa

6 Eskişehirspor

7 Trabzonspor

9 Genclerbirliăi

12 Karabükspor

13 Kayserispor

15 İstanbul BB

16 Elazığspor

2 Vitesse

3 Twente

4 Ajax 5 Feyenoord 6 Utrecht

7 NEC

12 AZ

15 VVV

8 RKC Waalwijk

10 Heracles

11 Groningen

13 Heerenveen 14 PEC Zwolle

16 NAC Breda

17 Roda JC

18 Willem II

9 ADO Den Haag

14 Gaziantepspor

18 Akhisar Beledi...

17 Mersin İdmanyurdu15 2

10 Sivasspor

11 Orduspor

8 Bursaspor

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+13 29 W D W L D

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## **SERBIA** Super Liga

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts	Last5gam Most recent
1 Partizan	15	12	1	2	45	12	+33	37	DWLWW
2 Crvena Zvezda	15	10	1	4	31	22	+9	31	LWWLL
3 Jagodina	15	9	2	4	17	10	+7	29	WWLLW
4 Vojvodina	15	7	7	1	13	7	+6	28	WDWWD
5 Rad Beograd	15	7	4	4	18	11	+7	25	DWWLD
6 Javor Ivanjica	15	7	2	6	22	14	+8	23	WWDWW
7 Sloboda Užice	15	6	5	4	19	20	-1	23	WLWDD
8 Spartak Subotica	15	6	4	5	21	16	+5	22	DLWDW
9 OFK Beograd	15	6	3	6	19	16	+3	21	WWWWL
10 Novi Pazar	15	3	6	6	17	20	-3	15	LLDLD
11 Donji Srem	15	4	3	8	13	20	-7	15	LLLDW
12 Radnički Niš	15	3	5	7	14	27	-13	14	DLLDL
13 BSK Borča	15	4	2	9	14	34	-20	14	LLWDL
14 Hajduk Kula	15	3	4	8	14	20	-6	13	WWLDL
15 Radnički 1923	15	2	6	7	12	22	-10	12	LDLLW
16 Smederevo	15	1	5	a	6	2/	-18	Q	LLLWI

### **One Game At A Time**

Bordeaux v Saint-Étienne Toulouse v Olympique Mars. Troyes v Ajaccio Sochaux v Brest Montpellier v Bastia Nice v Evian TG Reims v Lille Nancy v Bordeaux Saint-Étienne v Lorient

PSG v Olympique Lyonnais

Bayern München v Borussia M'gla. Bayer Leverkusen v Hamburger SV Wolfsburg v Eintracht Fran... Mainz 05 v Stuttgart Greuther Fürth v Augsburg Fortuna Düsseldorf v Hannover 96 Schalke 04 v Freiburg Hoffenheim v Borussia Dortmund Werder Bremen v Nürnberg

Osijek v Dinamo Zagreb Inter Zaprešic v Zadar Split v Zagreb Istra 1961 v Lokomotiva Cibalia v Osijek
Dinamo Zagreb v Rijeka Slaven Koprivnica v Hajduk Split

League

enters winte

resumes agair

in February 2013

2013

Hajduk Kula v Jagodina Donji Srem v OFK Beograd League enters BSK Borča v Partizan winter break Spartak Subotica v Sloboda Užice and Smederevo v Vojvodina resumes Crvena Zvezda v Javor Ivanjica Radnički 1923 ... v Rad Beograd again in February

### Radnički Niš v Novi Pazar

Hull City v Huddersfield Town Millwall v Leicester City Cardiff City v Peterborough U... Brighton & Hov... v Nottingham Forest Burnley v Watford Middlesbrough v Wolverhampton Birmingham City v Crystal Palace Blackpool v Blackburn Rovers Bolton Wanderers v Charlton Athletic Bristol City v Derby County Leeds United v Ipswich Tow Barnsley v Sheffield Wedn.

### **English League One**

Notts County v Brentford Shrewsbury Town v Carlisle United Doncaster Rovers v Coventry City Crewe Alexandra v Bury Stevenage v Crawley Town Portsmouth v Preston North End Leyton Orient v Scunthorpe United Walsall v Yeovil Town Sheffield United v Tranmere Rovers Milton Keynes Dons v Hartlepool United Oldham Athletic v Swindon Town

### AFC Bournemouth v Colchester United **English League Two**

Exeter City v Plymouth Argyle Morecambe v Oxford United AFC Wimbledon v Rotherham United Southend United v Bradford City Aldershot Town v Rochdale Gillingham v Fleetwood Town Dagenham & Red... v Barnet Chesterfield v Burton Albion Cheltenham Town v Port Vale Accrington Stanley v Wycombe Wanderers Torquay United v Northampton Town

York City v Bristol Rovers

Aberdeen v Kilmarnock Celtic v St. Mirren Dundee United v Inverness CT Hibernian v Motherwell St. Johnstone v Heart of Midlo. Ross County v Dundee

Kerkyra v Panthrakikos OFI v Asteras Tripolis Panionios v Olympiakos Piraeus Aris v Xanthi AEK Athens v Atromitos Levadiakos v Platanias Veria v Panathinaikos PAS Giannina v PAOK

### Turkey

Eskişehirspor v Bursaspor Mersin İdmanyurdu v Akhisar Beledi. Elazığspor v Gaziantepspor Genclerbirliği v Besiktas İstanbul BB v Trabzonspo Karabükspor v Sivasspor Orduspor v Antalyaspo Galatasaray v Fenerbahçe Kayserispor v Kasımpaşa

Twente V Heracles PEC Zwolle v AZ Groningen v VVV Roda JC v NAC Breda NEC v PSV Utrecht v Heere Vitesse v RKC Waalwijk Feyenoord v ADO Den Haag Willem II v Ajax

### **Portuga**

Vitória Setúbal v Porto Beira-Mar v Rio Ave Olhanense v Gil Vicente Nacional v Sporting CP Benfica v Marítimo Moreirense v Académica Sporting Braga v Estoril Paços de Ferreira v Vitória Guimarães

### HOLLAND Eredivisie

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Α	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
16	+37	36	WLLWW
14	+17	34	LWWWD
12	+17	34	LWDDD
18	+20	33	WWWW
20	+12	31	DWWWW
18	+3	26	DWLDL
27	-4	23	LDWLW
20	+2	20	WLDWW
26	+0	20	DLWLD
31	+1	19	DLDWL
26	-9	19	LWDDW
28	-7	15	DLLDD
34	-10	15	DLDLL
26	-11	14	DDDWL
34	-14	14	WDDLW
31	-17	13	DDLLL
35	-17	11	DLLLL
34	-20	11	DWDLL

### **SCOTLAND** SPL

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts	Last5gam Most recent
1 Celtic	16	9	4	3	31	14	+17	31	WWLWD
2 Inverness CT	17	7	7	3	34	28	+6	28	WWWLD
3 Motherwell	17	7	6	4	27	22	+5	27	WWDWD
4 Hibernian	17	8	3	6	27	24	+3	27	LWLLW
5 Aberdeen	17	6	6	5	22	19	+3	24	LLWLW
6 St. Johnstone	17	6	6	5	20	21	-1	24	DLWDD
7 Dundee United	16	6	5	5	22	21	+1	23	WLWDL
8 Heart of Midlo	17	5	6	6	16	18	-2	21	WLDWD
9 Kilmarnock	16	5	4	7	25	23	+2	19	LLDWL
10 Ross County	17	3	8	6	19	25	-6	17	LDLDL
11 St. Mirren	17	4	5	8	21	29	-8	17	DDWLL
12 Dundee	16	3	2	11	10	30	-20	11	LLWDW

### 23 23 21 13 Nürnberg 16 17 21 25 19 19 14 Wolfsburg -3 -16 15 Fortuna Düsseldorf16 4 6 18 21 38 18

**GERMANY** Bundesliga

PWDLF

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	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent firs
f City	21	14	2	5	42	26	+16	44	W W D W W
al Palace	21	12	5	4	41	26	+15	41	DWDLW
esbrough	21	12	2	7	37	29	+8	38	WLWLL
ity	21	12	2	7	31	26	+5	38	WWDLW
ster City	21	11	4	6	37	20	+17	37	DWLWW
rd	21	10	3	8	38	30	+8	33	LWWDW
ıll	21	9	6	6	33	29	+4	33	LDWWW
on & Hov	21	8	8	5	29	21	+8	32	DLWDW
gham Forest	21	8	8	5	30	26	+4	32	WLLWW
y County	21	8	6	7	33	32	+1	30	WLDWL
kpool	21	7	8	6	37	31	+6	29	DWDDD
Iton Athletic	21	7	8	6	28	26	+2	29	DDWDW
kburn Rovers	21	7	8	6	29	29	+0	29	LDLLW
ls United	21	8	5	8	31	35	-4	29	LWWWL
dersfield Town	21	8	5	8	28	33	-5	29	DLLDL
erhampton	21	8	4	9	29	27	+2	28	WWLLL
ley	21	8	4	9	33	36	-3	28	LDDWL
on Wanderers	21	6	8	7	30	32	-2	26	DLWDD
ingham City	21	6	6	9	26	33	-7	24	LWDLL
ich Town	21	6	5	10	22	41	-19	23	WWWDL
ol City	21	5	3	13	32	43	-11	18	WLLWD
slev	21	4	6	11	21	34	-13	18	DIDID

### AGU

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Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent file
21	11	7	3	38	18	+20	40	DDDLW
21	12	4	5	30	17	+13	40	DWWWW
21	10	9	2	29	18	+11	39	WLDWL
21	10	8	3	31	21	+10	38	WWWDW
21	10	7	4	29	27	+2	37	WDDLL
s21	10	6	5	30	17	+13	36	LWDWW
21	9	8	4	32	20	+12	35	DWDDD
21	9	6	6	30	18	+12	33	DLLWW
21	8	8	5	36	33	+3	32	WDDWW
21	Ω	5	7	20	30	- 1	32	DIIDD

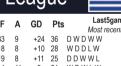
	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts	S Last5games Most recent first
1 Gillingham	21	13	5	3	39	18	+21	44	WDLWD
2 Port Vale	21	11	6	4	44	23	+21	39	LWWDD
3 Cheltenham Town	21	11	5	5	30	27	+3	38	WWLLW
4 Bradford City	21	10	5	6	31	22	+9	35	WDWLW
5 Rotherham United	21	10	4	7	34	31	+3	34	LWWLW
6 Southend United	21	9	6	6	33	21	+12	33	DWWWD
7 Exeter City	21	10	3	8	32	31	+1	33	WLWWD
8 Fleetwood Town	21	8	8	5	28	20	+8	32	DLLWD
9 Burton Albion	21	9	5	7	29	28	+1	32	WLLWL
10 Chesterfield	21	8	7	6	28	23	+5	31	WWWL
11 Torquay United	21	8	7	6	28	25	+3	31	LWWLD
12 Rochdale	21	8	6	7	32	32	+0	30	LLLWW
13 Northampton Tow	n21	8	5	8	34	30	+4	29	LLWWW
14 Dagenham & Red	1 21	7	7	7	33	29	+4	28	WLWLW
15 York City	21	6	9	6	26	30	-4	27	LWLDL
16 Morecambe	21	7	5	9	28	30	-2	26	DWLLW
17 Accrington Stanle	y 21	7	5	9	26	32	-6	26	LLDWD
18 Oxford United	21	7	4	10	30	36	-6	25	DWDLD
19 Wycombe W	21	6	5	10	25	32	-7	23	DWWWL
20 Plymouth Argyle	21	5	6	10	25	30	-5	21	WLLLD
21 AFC Wimbledon	21	5	4	12	24	40	-16	19	DLLDW
22 Aldershot Town	21	4	6	11	16	32	-16	18	DLWDL
23 Bristol Rovers	21	4	6	11	23	40	-17	18	LLDLL
24 Barnet	21	3	7	11	19	35	-16	16	

### **Portugal** Premeira Liga



	Р	٧V	U	L	г	А	GD	Pts	Most red
1 Benfica	11	9	2	0	28	7	+21	29	WWWWW
2 Porto	11	9	2	0	27	6	+21	29	WWWWW
3 Sporting Braga	11	6	2	3	24	15	+9	20	WLLWW
4 Rio Ave	11	5	3	3	15	13	+2	18	DWLWW
5 Paços de Ferreira	a 11	3	7	1	13	9	+4	16	DDWDW
6 Estoril	11	4	3	4	18	14	+4	15	WLWWL
7 Vitória Guimarãe	s 11	4	3	4	12	18	-6	15	WDLLW
8 Marítimo	11	3	4	4	9	16	-7	13	WDDLL
9 Sporting CP	11	2	5	4	10	14	-4	11	LDWLD
10 Nacional	11	3	2	6	15	22	-7	11	LWWLL
11 Vitória Setúbal	11	2	5	4	11	20	-9	11	LLDWL
12 Olhanense	11	2	4	5	13	18	-5	10	LLWDD
13 Gil Vicente	11	2	4	5	10	16	-6	10	LDLLL
14 Beira-Mar	11	2	4	5	15	22	-7	10	WDLWL
15 Académica	11	1	6	4	13	18	-5	9	LDLLD
16 Moreirense	11	1	4	6	12	17	-5	7	LDLLD

### **Greece** Super League

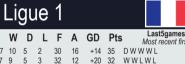


-16 15 LLLLL

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts	Last5ga Most recei
1 Olympiakos Pirae	us14	11	3	0	33	9	+24	36	DWDWW
2 PAOK	14	8	4	2	18	8	+10	28	WDDLW
3 Asteras Tripolis	14	7	4	3	19	8	+11	25	DDWWL
4 Atromitos	14	6	6	2	14	11	+3	24	WDWLW
5 Panionios	14	7	0	7	16	18	-2	21	LLLWL
6 PAS Giannina	14	6	3	5	14	11	+3	21	WLWWW
7 Panathinaikos	14	5	7	2	16	12	+4	20	DWLWD
8 Levadiakos	14	5	3	6	10	12	-2	18	LWWWW
9 Panthrakikos	14	5	2	7	14	16	-2	17	WDWDW
10 Platanias	14	4	4	6	13	17	-4	16	DLWLL
11 Xanthi	14	3	5	6	11	16	-5	14	WDLDL
12 OFI	14	3	5	6	14	18	-4	14	LDLLW
13 Aris	14	2	6	6	12	22	-10	12	DDLLL
14 Veria	14	2	6	6	7	17	-10	12	DDDLL
15 Kerkyra	14	2	6	6	7	17	-10	12	LLDLD
16 AEK Athens	14	3	2	9	10	16	-6	11	LWLWL

14 24 40

### France Lique 1



		Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts	Last5game Most recent t
1 Olympique Lyonnais17			10	5	2	30	16	+14	35	DWWWL
2 PSG		17	9	5	3	32	12	+20	32	WWLWL
3 Olym	pique Mars	16	9	2	5	20	19	+1	29	WLWLW
4 Lorie	ent	17	7	6	4	28	27	+1	27	WWWLW
5 Saint	t-Étienne	16	7	5	4	24	11	+13	26	LDWDW
6 Valer	nciennes	17	7	5	5	29	21	+8	26	LDWLD
7 Bord	eaux	16	6	8	2	20	13	+7	26	DDLWW
8 Nice		17	6	8	3	23	21	+2	26	WDWWW
9 Renr	nes	17	8	2	7	23	22	+1	26	LDWLW
10 Lille	)	17	6	7	4	19	16	+3	25	WDDLL
11 Mor	ntpellier	17	6	5	6	24	20	+4	23	WWLWD
12 Tou	louse	17	6	5	6	23	19	+4	23	LDLWL
13 Ajad	ccio	17	5	6	6	17	22	-5	19	WLDDL
14 Evia	an TG	17	5	4	8	19	27	-8	19	WLDWD
15 Bas	stia	16	5	4	7	21	33	-12	19	LDDWL
16 Bre	st	17	5	3	9	18	24	-6	18	LDLDW
17 Rei	ms	17	4	5	8	13	17	-4	17	LDLDL
18 Soc	hauv	17	1	1	Q	16	25	_Q	16	LDDIW

16 25 12 28 17 35 -16 10 DDDDD 19 Nancy

### ...Results...Results....Results....Results....Results...

### THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Blackburn Rovers 1 - 4 Cardiff City Derby County 3 - 1 Leeds United Huddersfield Town 2 - 2 Bolton Wanderers Leicester City 2 - 2 Barnsley Peterborough U... 2 - 3 Middlesbrough Watford 1 - 2 Hull City Nottingham Forest 2 - 0 Burnley Sheffield Wedn... 2 - 3 Bristol City Charlton Athletic 2 - 2 Brighton 8 Crystal Palace 2 - 2 Blackpool Ipswich Town 3 - 0 Millwall . Wolverhampton ... 1 - 0 Birmingham City

### **ENGLISH FA CUP**

Carlisle United 1 - 3 Sheffield United Tranmere Rovers 2 - 2 Portsmouth Colchester United 0 - 2 Oldham Athletic Swindon Town 1 - 1 Doncaster Rovers Preston North End 1 - 3 Crewe Alexandra Scunthorpe United 1 - 2 AFC Bournemouth Hartlepool United 0 - 2 Stevenage Crawley Town 2 - 2 Shrewsbury Town Bury 0 - 2 Leyton Orient Coventry City 5 - 1 Walsall Yeovil Town 0 - 0 Notts County

Brentford 3 - 2 Milton Keynes Dons

### **ENGLISH LEAGUE TWO**

Northampton Town 2 - 3 Cheltenham Town Port Vale 0 - 2 Chesterfield Rochdale 2 - 3 Exeter City Plymouth Argyle 2 - 0 York City Fleetwood Town 0 - 0 Southend United Bradford City 1 - 0 Torquay United Bristol Rovers 0 - 1 Dagenham & Red. Oxford United 1 - 1 Aldershot Town Nycombe Wanderers 2 - 2 Moreca Rotherham United 1 - 2 Gillingham Barnet 1 - 1 AFC Wimbledon Burton Albion 1 - 0 Accrington Stanley

### **CROATIA**

Lokomotiva 1 - 0 Cibalia Zagreb 2 - 1 Istra 1961 Haiduk Split 1 - 0 Inter Zaprešic Zadar 1 - 0 Split Rijeka 0 - 0 Slaven Koprivnica

### **FRANCE**

Ajaccio 2 - 0 Reims Evian TG 2 - 0 Troyes Lorient 2 - 0 Sochaux Olympique Lyonnais 1 - 1 Nancy Brest 1 - 2 Montpellier Bastia 1 - 2 Olympique Mars.

### **GERMANY**

Hamburger SV 2 - 0 Hoffenheim Borussia Dortmund 2 - 3 Wolfsburg Stuttgart 3 - 1 Schalke 04 Nürnberg 2 - 0 Fortuna Düsseldorf Freiburg 1 - 0 Greuther Fürth Augsburg 0 - 2 Bayern München Eintracht Fran... 4 - 1 Werder Bremen Borussia M'gla... 2 - 0 Mainz 05 Hannover 96 3 - 2 Bayer Leverkusen

### **GREECE**

Kerkyra 0 - 2 PAS Giannina PAOK 1 - 0 Levadiakos Atromitos 3 - 2 OFI Platanias 0 - 0 Veria Xanthi 4 - 0 Panionios

### Asteras Tripolis 1 - 1 Aris Panathinaikos 2 - 2 Olympiakos Piraeus Panthrakikos 1 - 0 AEK Athens

### HOLLAND

Heracles 1 - 1 Utrecht RKC Waalwijk 2 - 0 NEC ADO Den Haag 1 - 1 PEC Zwolle Aiax 2 - 0 Groningen Heerenveen 4 - 4 Roda JC NAC Breda 2 - 2 Feyenoord VVV 3 - 1 Vitesse PSV 3 - 0 Twente

### **PORTUGAL**

Paços de Ferreira 2 - 2 Marítimo Estoril 3 - 0 Vitória Setúbal Porto 1 - 0 Moreirense Rio Ave 0 - 0 Paços de Ferreira Marítimo 2 - 0 Nacional Gil Vicente 1 - 2 Beira-Mar Vitória Guimarães 2 - 0 Olhanense Académica 1 - 4 Sporting Braga Sporting CP 1 - 3 Benfica

### **SCOTLAND**

Kilmarnock 1 - 3Celtic Heart of Midlo... 2 - 0 Aberdeen Inverness CT 3 - OHibernian Motherwell 3 - 2Ross County St. Mirren 1 - 1St. Johnstone Dundee 0 - 3Dundee United

Kasımpaşa 2 - 2 Gençlerbirliği Gaziantepspor 0 - 2 Karabükspor Sivasspor 1 - 3 Galatasaray Bursaspor 1 - 0 Orduspor Trabzonspor 1 - 1 Kayserispor

### Beşiktaş 2 - 2 Eskişehirspor

Elazığspor 1 - 0 Mersin İdmanyurdu Akhisar Beledi... SUSP Antalyaspor Fenerbahçe 2 - 1 İstanbul BB

### Goal! Weekly - Friday 14th December 2012



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